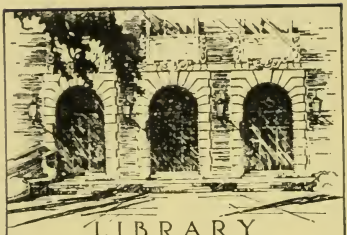

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THE

MATCH GIRL.

A NOVEL,

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY MRS. EDGEWORTH.

All is well ended, if this suit be won,
That you express content;———

SHAKSPEARE.

VOLUME II.

LONDON:
Printed by J. Dennett, Leather Lane, Holborn;
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THE

MATCH GIRL.

CHAPTER XIX.

Oh, could the secret I must tell thee, sleep.
ROWE.

"THE morning before I had the happiness of being recognised by Frederica, I was sitting pensively in my little room, solely occupied by her image, when the iron bolts that guarded my door were quickly drawn aside, and a young man rushed in; his features seemed distorted

by agony, and his hair was disheveled, I imagined that my keeper must have had another unfortunate under his care who had broke prison.

"I felt alarmed at his appearance, but fear soon yielded to surprise, when he exclaimed in a hurried tone, 'Captain Hildebrand, I am come to confess my guilt—I am a villain! yet I thank Heaven, not so great a one as he who instigated me to act unworthily; but criminating another cannot extenuate my conduct; therefore briefly to the point—do not interrupt me, listen in silence.

"'My name is Abbot, (I started) I perceive your surprise,' added he; 'your brother fostered me from infancy, educated me as his son, and at his death bequeathed me thirty thousand pounds,

and left you residuary legatee;—I envied you your fortune. My counseller—my friend, was Vincent. You were in Prussia, and I was easily prevailed upon to alter Mr. Hildebrand's will, and make myself sole heir. I rioted in the profusion of wealth:—your brother had accumulated above a hundred thousand pounds; yet a fortune however princely, cannot endure the shock of thoughtless extravagance. When your first letter arrived, I had not ten thousand left; I had forgot you were even in existence—a trifle makes the guilty tremble, and I immediately thought that you had, by some means, come to the knowledge of my baseness. From day to day, I deferred writing to you, not knowing what to do. Vincent was then away; I

waited his return with anxiety, and consulted him concerning what was to be done. He seemed to catch the contagion of fear from me, and his fertile brain was not long in arranging the diabolical plan in which I was devil enough to acquiesce with avidity. The cordial was prepared for you, and another for your grand-daughter, as we had resolved to convey her to some other secure place; and exulted not a little when we found that I was relieved from that additional expence.'

" ' Have you heard from my child ?' said I, impatiently.

" ' I have,' he replied; ' she is honorably protected.'

" ' God reward you,' returned I, ' for this delightful intelligence, and

may he forgive you for the hours of misery you have occasioned me, as sincerely as I do. But where is Frederica? Tell me, that I may hasten to her.'

"He said he was ignorant respecting her address, as Vincent, who was in the habit of opening and answering his letters, had merely told him the contents of Miss Hildebrand's letter, without mentioning where she was, nor had he enquired.

"'But I will search the world,' said I, rising.

"'Only a few minutes longer,' said Mr. Abbot, earnestly, 'and you shall be released. Suffer me to conclude.—I last night lost, at the gaming-table, above five thousand more than I am able to pay. To support you here longer

is out of my power, were it in my inclination. I am in debt to all my tradespeople; ruin stares me in the face. Vincent, like a true sunshine friend and partner in villainy, has disappeared. An execution is in the house that was once mine; fifty guineas is all I have now in the world—those I will divide with you.'

"'No,' returned I; 'let me have five; more I will not take.'

"'Generous man!' he replied; 'how you make me despise myself!'

"'Then,' said I, 'reform; you can scarce form an idea of the delights yielded by a pure conscience. But let us now quit this abode of wretchedness.'

"'Willingly; but still I have another request to make, namely, that you will

suffer your eyes to be bandaged, and let me lead you to a chaise that is in waiting. I give you my honor—though you may well say I do not possess any—still in the most solemn way, I will assure you, in a very few hours, you shall be finally released.'

" I hesitated, fearful of a new deception; but he entreated so earnestly, I could not refuse. He said he never would reveal the reason, nor can I conceive why the wretched man requested it, but I complied.

" My eyes he bandaged, and then ringing the bell, he was assisted by some one to convey me down stairs, and lift me into the carriage, which set off full speed. By the clattering of the hoofs, and the velocity with which we went,

I fancy there must have been four horses.

"Abbot preserved the most complete silence till we stopped to change horses, when he asked if I would take any thing; but that of course I declined, as I was still afraid of my fellow traveller.

"I should think six or seven hours must have expired, when he suddenly ordered the carriage to stop. 'Your liberty is at hand, sir, said he; 'let me assist you from the chaise.'

"I obeyed, and he put my arm within his, and walked, in silence, for near ten minutes; then, putting a small rouleau into my hand, 'All I ask,' said he, 'is for you to continue in darkness for five minutes, and pray for that wretch who is now on the point of quitting you for

ever, and who dares not pray for him self.'

" Saying this, he wrung my hand in an apparent agony, and was out of hearing in an instant.

" I was very glad when the time expired, that I might again behold the glorious light of the sun, and be a free agent.

" It was near an hour before my eyes were sufficiently recovered to permit me to look about me, after being obscured by unnatural means for so many hours; when I did, I perceived I was in a bye road, and a rustic passing soon after, I was by him informed I was about ten miles on this side Oxford.

" I did not trouble myself with conjecturing what had instigated Abbot to

bring me so far from the metropolis, but hastened to the first house of entertainment I could see, to endeavour to procure a conveyance to London.

" It was now getting dark, and I was faint and ill; my landlady told me a coach would pass through at twelve, and I requesting to be called when it arrived, went to bed.

" At six o'clock in the morning, the ostler came to tell me that there had not been a place for me; but, if I would dress myself immediately, there was a conveyance for me as far as Uxbridge, if I would pay fifteen shillings for it.

" I readily agreed, and was informed that it was a postillion who was taking home his master's chaise, which had been conveying the Heir Apparent to

Oxford, and had called to change horses there.

"When I got to Uxbridge, I found a returned post-chaise going to Acton, and had not alighted from it five minutes, when these old arms again received my heart's darling."

Frederica, whose tears had flowed almost without intermission, during Captain Hildebrand's recital, now rose, and going to her grandfather, said, "My dear sir, let us make a solemn promise to each other, that we never again will be separated, and that death alone shall divide us."

"Then," observed Colonel Ashford, "my little friend must vow that she will, in future only steal hearts; for unhappily, the laws of this land are so infa-

mously regulated, that the lovely offender cannot be brought to the bar of justice for that most inexcusable of all depredations."

"It would be very illiberal," returned Frederica, smiling, "if you were to punish for a fault which is very frequently involuntary on the part of the defendant. But you are very cruel; you have recalled to my mind, images that I wish for ever to obliterate. You must at present, preserve great delicacy on some subjects when you converse with me; for had I been the most guilty wretch existing, my mind could not sooner take the alarm than it now does, when stealing, thieves, or Newgate, are mentioned, though acting from the impetuous impulses of love and fear that swelled my

heart, there may be a something not totally indefensible in my conduct; still I offended the rigid laws of England, and as there was every proof against me, my escaping an ignominious death appears miraculous. But, dear grandpapa, you must make me the promise I request."

"I will never," returned Captain Hildebrand, "part from my child, but from the powerful instigation of necessity. We have been thus long divided by *necessity*, and *necessity* may again supersede our wills: but we will endeavour to avoid it; for another separation I feel would be more than I could support."

CHAP. XX.

Come, peace of mind, delightful guest,
Return and make thy downy nest
Once more in this sad heart;
Nor riches I, nor pow'r pursue,
Nor hold forbidden joys in view,
We therefore need not part.

Where wilt thou dwell, if not with me,
From av'rice and ambition free,
And pleasure's fatal wiles?
For whom, alas! dost thou prepare
The sweets that I was wont to share—
The banquet of thy smiles?

COWPER.

CAPTAIN HILDEBRAND, whose health returned rapidly after peace had again taken up her abode in his breast, was now able to walk in the Park, and Fre-

derica took him to the spot where she had first seen the benevolent Lady Anne Norval; they seated themselves on the bench, where, near a year before, the poor Match Girl had sunk for support, when overcome by the debility of her frame, and the distraction of her mind, her limbs were incapable of the office assigned them—it was an ample field for the moralist, and those who study and enjoy comparisons.

Frederica judged it a proper time to open a plan which she had been forming ever since she had been re-united to her grandfather: it was simply this—as it was necessary for some method to be adopted for their mutual support, till Mr. Norval obtained a post under Government for Captain Hildebrand (which

the sanguineness of youth made her conceive with such interest would speedily be done); she proposed for them to hire lodgings, and for her to instruct the harp—a task she was perfectly competent to.

"If you, dear grandpapa," said she, "will but approve of this, I shall be as happy as possible; in the morning I must quit you for a few hours, if I am sufficiently fortunate to obtain pupils; but then how delightful will my return be! what elation will the certainty of meeting you at dinner time produce, and the exertion will obtain an appetite for the fruits of my own exertion, far superior to that which I should have, if eating the bread of comparative idleness; and besides I have your promise

for our residing constantly together, and I am sure you cannot say that there is a *necessity* for my remaining in Clifford Street when you quit it."

"Your plan, my good girl, to prevent our separation must of course be delightful to me; but yet I cannot bear the idea of owing my support to the labours of my darling."

"Ah, grandpapa, that is a false kind of pride which would step in to prevent your gratifying yourself, and an individual whom you love; banish it, let me intreat of you, and consider how very short the period may be. Mr. Norval will, I make no doubt, soon obtain an appointment for you, and I shall glory in a dependance upon the person whom I love the best in the world."

"Frederica, I yield; you make me feel my own inferiority; all I stipulate for, is the concurrence of those benevolent and respected friends to whom you owe every thing."

"Then I am happy," replied Frederica; "Lady Anne, and Mr. Norval, will, I am certain, approve; her ladyship will recommend pupils, and we shall live together. And now, dear sir, as I think you have sat longer in the air, than prudence authorizes, let us return home.—I will write to Lady Anne, and you can rest yourself before dinner."

The answer from Norval Park was exactly what Frederica had predicted—Lady Anne approved entirely of the scheme, till Mr. Norval was sufficiently lucky to procure the kind of appoint-

ment he wished for Captain Hildebrand, and her ladyship entered with warmth into her young favorite's feelings respecting her grandfather and her residing together.

She enclosed a fifty pound note, which she insisted upon Frederica's accepting, as Lady Anne said the commencement of housekeeping was very expensive, and desired, as soon as ever they had fixed upon a residence they would let her know, as her ladyship, by the post that conveyed that, had written to several of her friends, recommending her in the highest terms; and added, "When I return to town, which will be soon, I make no doubt, I shall be able to procure you more employment than you can undertake; but I trust, ere that,

we shall be fortunate enough to obtain what we wish for the captain."

All parties were now pleased, Mrs. Claresby was rejoiced to get rid of the tiresome old man, as she called him, and his forward grand-daughter, though this was only said in their absence.

Captain Hildebrand could now not adduce any argument to oppose Frederica's scheme, and she was half wild with spirits.

A first floor in Blenheim Street, was speedily procured, and immediately entered upon; and Frederica hired a female servant to attend them. She had forty guineas to receive from Mrs. Claresby; and when they entered their new habitation, they were in possession of upwards of a hundred pounds, health, spirits, and pleasing prospects.

Mrs. Claresby had never again hinted her suspicions respecting her son, though she sedulously endeavoured to keep them apart, and as Frederica was as anxious as herself to avoid his society, she generally succeeded.

The fond mother imagined, for a young woman to reside for some months in the house with such a model of perfection as James, without loving him, was impossible, and she therefore cautioned her, as a friend, when they were waiting at the Earl of Kilvain's door, as she felt assured the poor thing was on the point of being irrecoverably lost; for her son to feel a reciprocal sentiment, she thought out of the question, as the emaciated form, and wan colourless cheeks of Frederica could not

inspire affection in a heart where taste reigned pre-eminent. But the case was now altered, and she trembled at the idea of *Mr. Claresby*'s demeaning himself.—Care, that had chased away Frederica's bloom, had disappeared, and the rose of youth again enlivened her countenance; her large brown eyes, which had ever been bent on the ground, and their brilliancy partly obscured by grief, and partly by the long silken lashes, were now all animation and vivacity, and seemed to be lighted up by the fire of intelligence; the smile of satisfaction and heartfelt content played in dimples about her mouth, which occasioned the discovery of a set of teeth beautifully white and delicately formed; her bones no longer seemed to be forcing their

way through her fair skin, but were now sufficiently covered to give a sylph-like appearance to the elasticity of her form.

"Can this be the girl," said Mrs. Claresby, mentally, "whose appearance six weeks since, only excited compassion? It scarcely seems possible. I am not sure if there are not men in the world who merely study the exterior, that would prefer her to my Emma; it is just as well that they are separated. The girl gets fatter too! Mr. Claresby likes a little of the en bon point. I am glad her quitting Clifford Street is decided upon."

Frederica rose the morning after taking possession of their new lodgings, with a heart at peace with herself and all the world, and prepared to wait upon

several ladies to whom she had letters from Lady Anne Norval to deliver.

Her ladyship desired that Captain Hildebrand might accompany her, as in the preceding letters she had mentioned him, and it would give a sanction to her introduction. These were merely to say they were the persons she wished so much to serve.

After breakfast, they accordingly set forth.

Mrs. Temple was the first Lady Anne desired Frederica to wait upon, as she was an elegant, benevolent woman, and had three daughters.

She of course obeyed, and upon sending up Lady Anne's letter, was immediately requested to follow the servant to his lady's dressing-room, where Mrs.

Temple was seated at breakfast with her daughters.

She received them with that easy politeness which usually distinguishes those who have been all their lives accustomed to the first circles. She seemed like the elder sister of her daughters; her figure was small, but extremely graceful, and being beautifully fair, very pretty, and remarkably lively, she appeared above ten years younger than she really was.

Miss Temple was about seventeen, and the youngest near fifteen; they were very fine girls, but much darker than their mother, and appeared equally good-humoured and unaffected.

Mrs. Temple talked for some time to Captain Hildebrand about his affairs,

and promised to employ her interest for one her dear friends, the Norvals, seemed so anxious to serve; she then turned to Frederica, who now, for the first time, felt in practice what had never occured in theory, which was, that she was still dependent; the noble blood of her Prussian ancestors for a moment boiled, but the mental reasoning of English philosophy predominated, and she smiled at her recent feelings.

"Till Lady Anne wrote to me, Miss Koningsberg," said Mrs. Temple, "respecting you, I had intended my daughters' musical accomplishments not to have extended beyond the piano-forte, upon which they have attained some proficiency; but they are now so anxious to have you for an instructress upon

the harp, that I cannot refuse, nay, believe the contagion will even extend to me. I have delayed purchasing an instrument till I saw you; but if you can make it convenient to call to-morrow, we will go and look at some."

Frederica and Captain Hildebrand quitted Mrs. Temple's, charmed with her and her daughters, and proceeded to deliver the other letters; and they returned in high spirits home, with the promise of eight pupils to begin with.

CHAP. XXI.

O fairest of creation! last and best
Of all God's works! creature in whom excell'd
Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet.

MILTON.

FREDERICA entered upon her new employment with all the avidity which a young mind so naturally feels from the impulse of variety; her prospects never appeared so brilliant to her as at present.

Captain Hildebrand's health and spirits seemed to promise his grand-daughter

many years of happiness in his society, although he was now fast advancing in the vale of life.

As Frederica was not apt to anticipate evil, she did not reflect upon his age, but enjoyed, uninterrupted, the constant elation that sprung round her heart, and added animation to her attractive countenance.

She gave the utmost approbation as an instructress, and was treated by her pupils with the greatest kindness, and indeed, in Mrs. Temple's family, with friendship.

Previous to Captain Hildebrand and Frederica's quitting Mrs. Claresby's, Colonel Ashford had left London for Lancashire, as regimental duty required his attendance; but he said it would be

but for a very short time, and his first visit, upon his return, should be to Blenheim Street; consequently they were not surprised to hear his name announced.

Ever gay and good-humoured, he gave a hand to each; then seating himself, told Frederica he had brought her a great deal of news, which he would not lose a minute in relating. "In the first place," said he, "Miss Claresby and Harcourt arrived in town last night, like good boy and girl, to ask mamma's consent to add one more couple to the train of Hymen; and next, I must tell you, Fitzraymond last week joined us; as to the beautiful Irish girl, I believe she only existed in his caution, though he is too generously noble a fellow to

own it; but I am pretty well convinced that when he found Emma quite obtrusively in love with him, that he spread the report of his being engaged, to check her aspiring hopes. The girl has made herself very ridiculous throughout the affair; I am certain her haughty airs, since the return of Fitzraymond, must have amused him, though he shewed more delicacy than I should have done, and did not laugh at her. But what a complete gossip I am! I actually forgot that Charlotte is at the door in her carriage, and sent me up stairs with a message to you. She wishes, if you will permit it, for the pleasure of your acquaintance."

"Let me entreat," said Frederica, "that you will hasten to her ladyship,

and say how highly I feel myself honored by her condescension; as for you, make your own apology as well as you can, for your neglect; were I Lady Charlotte, I would not easily pardon it."

"Thank Heaven, I have not such a little tyrant to deal with," returned the colonel, running down stairs in an instant.

He re-entered, leading in his cousin, Lady Charlotte Kilvain, to whom he presented Captain Hildebrand and Frederica, who had never before seen a female whose external appearance prepossessed them more.

Her ladyship was rather above the middle size, and had, in general, an airy playfulness in her figure that delighted every one, though, if occasion

required it, she could assume the utmost dignity of deportment, and

"Walk a queen."

Her features and complexion could not be surpassed;—there was a bewitching irradiation which seemed to diffuse itself over her countenance whenever she spoke, that charmed universally. She seemed like the famed Pandora, upon whom every God bestowed a gift to make her more complete. Yet it was never feared that she could be employed in any cause which could be productive of mere uneasiness even to an individual. She was a general philanthropist; she appreciated her fellow mortals by her own feelings, and judging by those, she imagined that error scarcely existed in the circle of her

friends, whose idol she was. Had her heart and mind been less perfect than they were, all the indulgence that had been lavished upon her from infancy, must have spoiled her; but on Lady Charlotte, it had no other effect than adding to her natural vivacity. Free from care herself, the ardent wish of her heart was to lessen that of others, and she well knew she seldom failed, as such a general object of idolatry could not but feel a consciousness of pleasing, yet at the same time she was perfectly free from vanity. She was near eighteen.

The account Colonel Ashford had given her of the grandfather and granddaughter, had interested her very much, and previous to his leaving town, her ladyship had told the colonel that she

would accompany him to Blenheim Street the first time he went there.

After a little general conversation, Lady Charlotte said, "I really have behaved in a most unprecedented style, Miss Koningsberg. I assailed your castle, without allowing you time to prepare for defence; therefore, to prove you are not very angry with me, Captain Hildebrand and yourself must promise to favor my father with your company in Arlington Street to-morrow."

"The proposition," returned Frederica, "is too flattering to be refused, if my grandfather will accompany me."

"For that I will answer," returned her ladyship; "I am a physiognomist, and already perceive that Captain Hil-

debrand would do any thing to oblige me."

"Your ladyship," replied the veteran, "has really penetrated into my thoughts; but in this case, I am not deserving of praise; for I do not comply from a wish to please another, as it would have been a real mortification to myself had I not acquiesced; still, I am sure, to refuse you any thing, would be impossible."

"I had not any idea, Miss Konings-berg, that your grandfather was so gallant."

"Truth and gallantry, your ladyship must be aware, are widely distinct in their meanings; and I am convinced by my own feelings, that the speech which you term gallant, was the genuine sentiment of the heart."

"Charlotte," said Colonel Ashford, "you shall not stay here any longer, or you will be the vainest creature existing."

"Ah! you are a really good soul," returned her ladyship; "therefore, pray take me away in time. You were going out, Miss Koningsberg, when we came; therefore I will set you down."

Frederica was going to Mrs. Temple's, therefore she accepted the offer with pleasure, and was conveyed by her new friend, to that lady's.

It was doomed to be a day of satisfaction to the fair Prussian, as Mrs. Temple had just had a note from Lady Anne Norval, announcing her arrival in town, and requesting that Frederica might be informed of the circumstance, and desired to go to Hanover Square;

"Therefore, my dear," said Mrs. Temple, "we will defer our lessons till tomorrow, as I plainly perceive, by the impatience which sparkles in your tell-tale eyes, that you think every minute an hour, till you see Lady Anne."

"And if you, madam, were acquainted with my story, and knew the obligations I am under to her ladyship, you would think me a monster of ingratitude if I were not."

"You are a good girl, I am sure: therefore run away; we will not detain you."

Frederica was borne on the pinions of grateful affection, to the door of her benefactress.

It was opened by James, who was delighted to see Frederica, but said both

his master and lady were out, but the latter soon expected; "Therefore, pray, miss," added the faithful fellow, "walk into my lady's dressing-room. Dear heart, how happy she will be to find you look so rosy! and so will my grandmother."

"I hope she is quite well," said Frederica. "Remember me kindly to her, and say, if she will come and see me in Blenheim Street, I will endeavour to prove to her, that neither my grandfather or self can ever forget the kindness she shewed me at Hampstead."

"That she shall, miss," said James, "and it will delight her old heart; for she has often said she had not a bit more love for me than you, and that was saying much."

CHAP. XXII.

For she is fairer than the snowy breast
Of the tall swan, whose proudly swelling crest
Divides the wave; her tresses loose behind
Play on her neck, and wanton in the wind;
The rising blushes which her cheek o'erspread,
Are op'ning roses in the lilly's bed.

GAY.

FREDERICA did not follow James's direction, by going into his lady's dressing-room, but tripped into the nursery to see her little friends.

The boys immediately recognized, but Anne, the youngest, had not the slightest recollection of her. The pale

form, and death-like countenance, that she had been accustomed to, was no longer visible, and she was not old enough to account for the change; but Frederica's vivacity made her a favorite in a few minutes, and she was playing with the children when Lady Anne arrived.

Her ladyship stopped in an outward room to contemplate the scene. The actors were too much engaged to perceive her approach, and she signed to the nurses not to speak.

She gazed at Frederica with astonishment; her natural colour was heightened to vermillion, which gave an added delicacy to the white. She was running about the room with little Anne in her

arms, and the boys, to amuse their sister, were endeavouring to catch her.

Lady Anne when she had last parted with her favorite, had despaired of ever seeing her again; she had always been habited in mourning; she was now the picture of health and happiness, and was dressed in muslin—her little play-fellow had pulled down her bright brown hair which was hanging in luxuriant profusion about her shoulders, her hat had fallen off, therefore it was perfectly unconfined; to Lady Anne, she seemed something more than mortal.

Reader, I do not wish to represent my heroine as a divinity—far from it; I wish her to be an artless, vivacious, interesting girl that will compel you to esteem

her. But Lady Anne found her deeply engaged with *her* children, and maternal fondness, and the wonderful change she perceived, struck so upon her mind, that her ideas are natural.

How long her ladyship would have remained a silent spectator is uncertain, had not Henry perceived her, and running to her, exclaimed, "Mamma, here's Frederica." In an instant Lady Anne received in her arms her daughter and protégé. As the latter forgot to put down little Anne in her haste to embrace her benefactress, who was both delighted and affected at the joy Frederica evinced.

When they were both a little composed, they quitted the nursery, as Lady Anne had a great many questions to ask,

and much to say; her ladyship said that Mr. Norval was gone to wait upon a friend in power, as they had heard of a situation they thought would suit Captain Hildebrand. "They were glad," she added, "to hear of any appointment that was likely to do, as his time of life rendered it a difficult thing, as their wish was to obtain something that would support him comfortably without a great deal of employment.

"For my part," returned Frederica, "I feel perfectly indifferent about it. I am enabled, without fatigue, to supply our humble wants, and were I mistress of thousands, I might not enjoy the happiness I now do; I cannot, dear Lady Anne, describe to you my feelings, since I have been re-united to my grand-

father; I am now never grave, I seem to have all my wishes gratified."

As Lady Anne was anxious to see Captain Hildebrand, Frederica, by her ladyship's desire, dispatched a note to invite him to dine in Hanover Square.

In the course of conversation her ladyship asked Frederica if she had heard from Mr. Malden since he left London. She replied in the negative, informing Lady Anne of the wish she had expressed to correspond with him, and the agitation it had produced. Her ladyship then enquired about the Claresbys, and Frederica, with the utmost delicacy, related Emma's silly conduct.

When Mr. Norval returned home, he was as much surprised and pleased as Lady Anne had been at the alteration

he perceived in their mutual favorite; the appointment he had wished to obtain for Captain Hildebrand was disposed of. "We must have patience, Miss Koningsberg," added he, "I make no doubt but all will be well."

"Frederica," said Lady Anne, "is a perfect philosopher."

"I do not think," she replied, "that I merit that honorable appellation: I believe that philosophy enables us to bear the trying calamities of life. When I endured them I proved my stock of resolution to be small, as both my health and spirits sunk from my want of fortitude. I am now a coward—being happy, I dread the idea of endeavouring to become more so, and am fearful of pressing the rose that may be offered to our ac-

ceptance to my heart, lest the thorn its beauties often conceal, should fatally wound me."

"Bravo! my little moralist," said Mr. Norval, "I did not think that your present laughing countenance could harbour so much reflection."

Before she could answer, Captain Hildebrand was announced, and Frederica flew to the head of the stairs to receive and introduce her grandfather.

By Mr. Norval and Lady Anne, he was welcomed with all the easy familiarity of an old friend; they were delighted with the honest pride of the veteran, and his refined manners, which added dignity to his appearance.

After passing a day of happiness, they returned to their humble dwelling, and sat up much beyond their usual time,

conversing upon the benevolence and many attractive virtues of their friends in Hanover Square.

The day following they dined at Lord Kilvain's; the earl was just what the father of the fascinating Lady Charlotte would be expected to be; her's were her father's virtues feminized. Her ladyship exerted herself successfully to please her guests.

Frederica passed a great part of her leisure time either in Hanover Square, or Arlington Street.

Colonel Ashford was very soon obliged to join the regiment; and Emma Claresby obtaining her mother's consent, married Mr. Harcourt; her money purchased for him a captain's commission in another regiment.

Miss Claresby had called two or three

times upon Frederica, but had made a point of being constantly denied when she returned the visit, as Frederica's charms made her dread Mr. Harcourt's encountering her; and even vanity such as Emma could not prevent her feeling inferior to one she affected to despise.

Thus passed above two months of tranquil sameness, and the third was wearing apace—London began to thin, and Frederica lost several of her pupils, who went into the country.

Great as was the interest that was exerted for Captain Hildebrand, still it was not sufficient to obtain for him that species of employment, his years enabled him to undertake.

Lady Anne was preparing for Norval Castle, and Mrs. Temple purposed vi-

siting a sea-port; Frederica and her grandfather were to divide her leisure between the two friends.

As Frederica at this period was returning from paying her daily visit to Lady Anne, as she entered her lodging, she perceived a respectable looking old man speaking to her servant, who said as she approached, "That is my mistress, sir. This gentleman, ma'am wants to speak to you and master."

"Is my grandfather from home?" demanded Frederica.

The servant replied in the affirmative.

"If you will give me leave to have a few minute's conversation with you, young lady," said the man, "it will for the present be sufficient,"

Frederica paused—she felt as if she

dreaded the communication the old man had to impart; she had heard much of the deceptions of London, and of people of the most specious appearance getting into houses under false pretences, and plundering them. She had often been put upon her guard—she was on the point of telling the person she could not see him till the return of Captain Hildebrand, and turned for that purpose, but there was a mild benignity in his aspect which seemed to read her thoughts, and accuse her want of confidence. Had it been actually so, she could not have blushed a deeper dye, when in the kindest tone, (as if to exonerate herself in his opinion for the suspicion she had entertained,) he was requested to follow her.

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"You were afraid of trusting me, young lady," said he, when they entered her apartment; "I approve your caution, and admire you more for it."

"Are you then acquainted with me?"

"With your character intimately.—You are the only unmarried woman, my dear master, Mr. Malden, has spoken well of for years."

"Mr. Malden your master! How is my respected friend? I have been very anxious to hear news concerning him: when do you think I shall see him?"

"When you go, young lady, to receive that reward which is preparing for your virtuous heart. Mr. Malden knew it to be so—his judgments were not formed precipitately; this sable dress accords with my sorrow for his loss."

Tears were Frederica's only reply—the suddenness of the shock produced them; Mr. Malden she had felt a real esteem for—his friendship for her had ever been gratifying and improving.

CHAP. XXIII.

He that no more must say, is listened more
Than they, whom youth and ease have taught to glose;
More are men's ends mark'd, than their lives before;
The setting sun,—and music in the close,—
As the last taste of sweets is sweetest last;
Writ in remembrnce, more than things long past.

SHAKSPEARE.

THOMPSON, the name of the deceased Mr. Malden's steward, suffered Frederica's grief to exhaust itself in tears, free from interruption, while he gazed at her with a mixture of sorrow and admiration.

When she became more composed, and enabled to ask some questions respecting her friend, Thompson said he had a letter which Mr. Malden, with his dying breath had committed to his charge, with strict orders to deliver it himself into the hands of either Captain Hildebrand, or his grand-daughter.

" How happened Mr. Malden to know that I had been fortunate enough to be re-united to my grandfather ?"

" That letter will, I fancy, explain, lady : if not, I will inform you."

Frederica ordered refreshment for the old man, and opening the letter, with tearful eyes she read as follows :

" All your motions have been watched, child, and they lean to the side of virtue ; I employed emissaries, by whom I

was informed of your every action; I analyzed every separate one, and they did not suffer by it: to have received letters from you would have agonized me too much, or indeed from any one; the money that I employed in your service to be made acquainted with your slightest concern, seemed well laid out, for I never heard of any thing to your disadvantage.

"I have seen you the sole support and comfort of your mother's father; I loved, in my mind's eye, to dwell upon your movements: you only acted thus, poor child, to insure the applause of your own heart.

"I followed you with delight from the house of the bombastic monologist in Clifford Street, and saw your countenance

no longer obscured by grief, enlivening the frugal meal of him for whom you exerted your industry. In your last moments, Frederica, your conduct to your grandfather will be a never-failing source of mental gratification to you; and as in the course of nature, you will in all probability remain in this sublunary sphere when he is gone to scenes of never-ending bliss, the sigh of satisfaction will check the tear of unavailing regret, while you say, 'I added to his comforts; from me he experienced nought but happiness, the trifling petulances, the eccentricities that will accompany the most perfect state of declining life, were by me overlooked; the many virtues of the friend were dwelt upon with pleasure,

the casual particularities of the mutable old man forgotten.'

" Frederica, the time is arrived for reward. Charles Malden, when you peruse this, will be released from the turmoil of existence—will be receiving remuneration for his terrestial woes. You are the only person who wants money, for whom I feel an esteem; yet, child, I have not left the bulk of my fortune to you, but to your grandfather. Deep was my consideration ere I determined: I stated various positions; I reflected morally, physically, and philosophically, and at length resolved to bequeath you twenty thousand pounds—your mother's father four thousand per annum; I think you will both do credit to riches. Had I left you all the money

I have now divided, it would have been improper; you are too young to be so rich; Captain Hildebrand would still have been dependent on his daughter's child. To Henry Norval's children, I have left ten thousand each—other bequests to various servants and persons who have done me service. Thompson is residuary legatee. That old man has many virtues; his worth is infinite—make him your friend. Many will be surprised that I suffered you to toil for your daily bread, when I purposed providing amply for you; and I reply I did so, because I liked to watch the progress of your virtues, and to see your soul expand into all the branches and ramifications of goodness—because I liked to rouse the latent germ of genius into action, and because,

in my opinion, you never seemed more truly amiable than while your arm was at the same time supporting the frame of your grandfather in two different ways; in the morning, enabling him to purchase those necessaries without which we cannot exist, and in the evening, tendering it to him, that he might with more delight enjoy the departing beauties of nature. I have leaned upon you, child, and your artless remarks have chased melancholy for a time from her abode, and it is a time you will now reflect upon with satisfaction. Remember the advice I last gave you, and remember the last I shall ever give you.—Do not suffer riches to change that simplicity of heart I have ever contemplated with pleasure. Do not decide

rashly, if you mean to marry: be cautious; investigate the character. Let there be sympathy in your minute, as well as your leading opinions; but when you have fixed, oh, be firm, be firm!—That idea has produced horror.—Child, be still good, still as you now are, and your vivacity, your peace, your health, will know no diminution. Farewell, for ever, Frederica! May that eternal Providence, whom we all obey, protect and guard you in the hour of danger, and when the energies of your soul decline, and the evanescent pleasures of existence fade—when reminiscence no longer illumines the scene, or the fervour and enthusiasm of hope will no more cheer, may He receive the ethereal part into the bright abodes of eternity, which hold

out never-fading joys for those who have trod the paths of purity and honor!"

Frederica laid the paper on the table, and with a voice interrupted by sobs, she exclaimed, "Admirable benefactor! never, never shall your admonitions be forgot! They shall act as a monitor, and shall often be perused—always attended to.—Mr. Thompson, we have lost an excellent friend. Did he inform you of his kindness to me and my dear grandfather?"

"I have a copy, madam, of his will in my possession, and am happy to find he bequeathed his money so worthily; he was, indeed, an excellent man, and only erred in loving an unworthy woman with boundless affection;—her in-

famous conduct gave a fatal colouring to his future days."

Captain Hildebrand entered. He was very much astonished to perceive a stranger with his grand-daughter, and the visible traces of grief upon her countenance.

He looked alternately at each in silence, and at length exclaimed, "Tell me, my child, what has happened to occasion those tears? Do not fear any news can now affect me; I have been too much enured to sorrow."

Frederica immediately informed the captain of the cause which had made her tears flow; and then presented Mr. Malden's posthumous letter, which he could not peruse without emotion.

After conversing for some time upon the virtues of the deceased, and his ec-

centricities, which frequently cast so dark a shade upon them that they were nearly obscured, Mr. Thompson rose to depart, as he intended waiting upon Mr. Norval, to inform him of the bequest to his childen ; as Captain Hildebrand was principal legatee, he waited first upon him.

The following morning, he was to call in Blenheim Street to converse upon business, as it would be necessary for the captain to visit Cornwall, to take possession of the estate that had been willed him.

When their visitor departed, the grandfather and Frederica were enabled to arrange their scattered ideas, which the sudden news of their good fortune had sadly disordered.

"My child," said Captain Hildebrand,

" is indeed now rewarded for her kindness to me. The many evils she has endured will be reflected upon as a dream that is passed, which was terrific while it lasted, but from which we awaken with delight, happy to find it only a vision of sleep. You will now, Frederica, move in that sphere for which you seem to have been formed. Your Prussian uncles would now glory in their neice, and those cheeks that would have been tinged with the glow of indignation and offended pride at a petition from their brother's orphan, will, if ever you see them, flush with admiration at your virtues and relationship to them."

" Dear sir," said Frederica, " all I wish is to render myself worthy of my good fortune, and to prove that Mr,

Malden did not lavish his kindness upon an ingrate. Indeed," added she, smiling, " it will act as a stimulous for the exertion of the few good qualities I may possess; my pride, you know, will oblige me to wear the appearance of some virtues, lest my friends should say, ' How mistaken was Mr. Malden in the opinion he formed of Frederica Koningsberg !' "

" My child," returned Captain Hildebrand, while the affectionate tear of delight glistened in his eyes, " need never draw upon her pride for the deficiencies of her virtues; they are a never failing fund which she will ever possess, and will continue, during her life, as they have hitherto done, to afford her the most exquisite mental gratification."

CHAP. XXIV.

——— To brighter joys,
Pleasure lifts our wandering eyes;
With her own resistless smile,
She shall smooth each care awhile.
Yes, the fair queen shall all the mind possess,
With gladness fire it, and with rapture bless.
MR. HARTIS.

WHEN Frederica separated with her grandfather for the night, she retired to her own little apartment; but to sleep, she had not any inclination: therefore placing her candle on the table, she seated herself, and suffered her imagination to have its full play.

"What a change have my fortunes undergone since I last entered this room for the purpose of taking rest!" was her first reflection. This led to many others.

The memory of Mr. Malden, she esteemed and respected. During his life, she had ever considered him as the first of human beings; but the tear of regret did not so lavishly bedew her cheeks for his loss, as it would have done had her name not been mentioned in his will.

Excuse her, reader; she was not twenty, and besides a mere woman, her untoward fortunes had hitherto prevented her mixing in those circles that she must add a brilliancy to. The exclusion made her imagine they must yield more delights than they do.

Lady Charlotte Kilvain, she often thought, must be completely happy, her vivacity rendered the various amusements she partook of, delightful to her. Frederica was not less lively, and their minds, from education, were equally formed to enjoy solitude.

"I shall now," continued she, "be the companion of Lady Charlotte; I was yesterday but an humble, a very humble friend, who felt the notice bestowed upon me by the daughter of an earl, a condescension; to morrow when I see her I may expect it. From my father I inherit the blood of nobility, and from my mother that of a glorious train of warriors who lived but to serve their king, and died defending his rights. Therefore Lady Charlotte need neither

blush at the birth or fortune of one who aspires to her friendship."

Golden visions occupied her mind all night, and Frederica met her grandfather at breakfast, with the cheerfulness of her heart mantling upon her cheeks.

Mr. Thompson called early in the forenoon, himself and Captain Hildebrand were left executors of Mr. Malden's will, therefore they had a great deal of business to transact in the city. The deceased had bequeathed most of the principal legatees five hundred pounds for mourning, and with his latest breath had desired Mr. Thompson to present Frederica with her's immediately, as it was his dying wish for her to mourn for him as for a father.

The gentlemen had scarcely left the

house, when Lady Anne Norval entered to congratulate Captain Hildebrand and his grand-daughter upon their good fortune. She tenderly embraced Frederica, saying, "I have now, my dear girl, not a wish ungratified upon your account, one who has shone so resplendent in poverty, will add dignity to riches. You must now come to our house, that period is arrived, when, instead of being detrimental to you to be under my protection, it will be of service: I shall have the happiness of introducing to all my acquaintance, one whom I have esteemed ever since I became sensible of her worth. You, my dear Frederica, have too much sense not to appreciate justly the reasons which with-

held me till now, from having you in Hanover Square—you have heard and approved them. Mr. Norval, who you know is my oracle, always says, there is not a more ill-judged, improper thing, than suffering a young woman to mix in society far superior to her fortune, it makes her detest her own lot, with which she might otherwise have been satisfied."

"I perfectly agree," returned Frederica, "with your ladyship; and must confess that I am very happy the embargo is taken off at last. What a strange variety," she continued, "has there been in our fortunes, since you first took notice of me! I hope the fickle goddess is now contented with

the various vicissitudes we have experienced, and will suffer us in peace to enjoy her gifts."

"Depend upon it," said Lady Anne, "you will next be attacked by the other blind deity, Master Cupid; now that you are going to emerge from solitude, men and their pleasing frivolities will attract you from the novelty of the thing."

"Dear madam," returned Frederica, "they are no novelty to me."

"Really!" replied her ladyship; "I did not know that your male acquaintance was very extensive."

"Oh, yes," said she; "independent of Lord Kilvain, Mr. Norval, and my grandfather, I know Mr. Seymour, Colonel Ashford, Major Fitzraymond, and Mr. Claresby."

"Upon my word," exclaimed her ladyship, laughing, "a most famous muster-roll! After hearing that, I think any fears upon your account must be superfluous."

Lady Anne then offered to take Frederica to purchase her mourning, and to wait upon Mrs. Temple and the very few other pupils that were still in town, to acquaint them of the change in her fortune.

"Let us first," said Frederica, "settle the momentous affair of shopping, dear Lady Anne; it is a thing I am so little acquainted with, I shall quite enjoy it. Your bounty has hitherto almost entirely cloathed me since I came to England."

"Do not say any more about that, my dear girl; your gratitude has ever

been more profuse than the simple act of natural humanity I performed deserved."

"Pardon me, madam, in that sole thing will I disobey you? It is what I shall ever reflect upon, and frequently mention. Could I for one hour forget 'that I was a stranger, and you took me in—naked, and you cloathed me,' I should think myself a wretch unworthy of existence."

After their other visits were paid, Frederica requested Lady Anne to take her to Lord Kilvain's, as she wished to inform Lady Charlotte of Mr. Malden's bequest.

She found her ladyship sitting with her father. She rose and took her hand, saying, "I am very happy to see

you, Miss Koningsberg, as I was just going, by the earl's desire, to dispatch a note to you, containing a request to yourself and the captain, to accompany us for a few days to Acton; you have now so much leisure that I will not be refused."

"I am afraid we shall not be able to comply; to-morrow, I fancy we go to Mr. Norval's, and our next remove will be to Cornwall, to my grandfather's estate."

"I did not know my old friend had one," said the earl.

"Nor did I, sir, when I had last the honor of seeing you."

"You are perfectly enigmatical," cried Lady Charlotte. "Pray explain; I am certain you have some news to tell us:

I cannot endure suspense, and your countenance makes me curious."

"How disagreeable to have such a tell-tale face! I had intended to have dwelt much longer in mystery, by way of astonishing more: but it will not do; so I may as well make a virtue of necessity, and be ingenuous."

She then, in a few words, related the particulars of Mr. Malden's will, which gave real satisfaction to her auditors. The earl, with whom she was a very great favorite, expressed the greatest delight at the intelligence, and Lady Charlotte was not the least behind hand.

"This summer," said she, "I suppose we must be divided; but next winter we will be inseparable, and make some of the male part of the creation

rue the days that gave birth to two such haughty fair ones."

"You must teach me," returned Frederica, enjoying the idea, "if I possess power, how to use it."

"Oh, that will come of itself," said her ladyship.

"That it will," observed the earl; "Charlotte has been her own instructress, and she appears to succeed tolerably."

"For a young beginner, very well, I think," she replied.

"The earl said they were two very saucy girls, and bade them take care that they were not caught in the net they prepared for others.

The time passed so agreeably that Frederica forgot Lady Anne was waiting

for her. In the middle of a conversation, she suddenly recollected it, and starting up, exclaimed, "I cannot stay another instant. What a rude, thoughtless creature I am! Lady Anne Norval is at the door in her chariot." And hardly giving herself time to make compliments of adieu to the earl and his lovely daughter, tripped lightly to the carriage, and directly commenced her apologies.

"I forgive you, my dear, though I began to think you meant to take up your abode in Arlington Street; but as you are a little wild to-day, it is very excusable."

Lady Anne left her young friend in Blenheim Street, who promised, if her grandfather had not any objection, they would, the following day, go to Hanover

Square, to remain till it was necessary for them to visit Cornwall.

Captain Hildebrand brought Mr. Thompson home with him to dinner, at a very late hour, and told Frederica she must prepare to accompany him to Cornwall, in a few days. Mr. Malden had advised for the house to be let for a term of years, as, he said, he imagined Captain Hildebrand would find it too far for a country residence, and even if he thought proper, to dispose of the estate altogether—not to keep it from any respect to his memory, as he was far from feeling any affection to it.

They had that morning heard of a gentleman who was anxious to hire the house, and even purchase the estate, if Captain Hildebrand was not exorbitant

n his demands; his presence was therefore necessary.

Frederica told her grandfather of Lady Anne's invitation, which they now could not accept, as they were so soon to leave town.

In three days they were ready to depart.

Captain Hildebrand purchased a light travelling chaise, but deferred buying horses, or hiring servants, till he had time to suit himself.

Mr. Thompson accompanied them, and the happy Frederica was the amusement and admiration of her two old companions. She perceived it, and it added to her fund of wit and humour.

CHAP. XXV.

But now joys of different kind
Wing the wish, and fire the mind;
Tumbling rills, that warbling flow,
Yellow meads, with gold that glow,
Wandering walks, and rural ease—
Such alone have power to please.

MR. HARTIS.

THEY travelled, by easy stages, happily on. Mr. Thompson said that Miss Frederica's gaiety made him feel ten years younger, and that he no longer wondered that Mr. Malden had exempted her from the general odium his poisoned and lacerated mind made him cast upon unmarried women.

Before the purchase was finally decided upon, it was near the end of July, as the gentleman Captain Hildebrand's estate was wanted by, was captious and unpleasant in business.

Frederica was very anxious for the completion of it, as she thought the air did not agree with her grandfather. He seemed to droop; it tortured and agonised her mind, and her health was near falling a sacrifice to her anxiety, when to her great joy, the affair was finally settled.

Before they left Cornwall, Mr. Thompson presented Frederica with an admirable likeness of Mr. Malden, which had been taken unknown to him; she prized it highly.

The captain took a young man as his

servant, who had lived five years with the deceased owner of the estate, and had been a great favorite; Mr. Thompson vouched for his honor and integrity. The old man parted from them with tears, he said he should not again visit London, but remain quietly in Cornwall, and be laid near his good master.

Our travellers crossed the Tamer, into Devonshire. Captain Hildebrand proposed to Frederica deferring their visit to Lady Anne and Mrs. Temple, as he said it would be a real source of satisfaction to him before he died, with Frederica to go to the spot where he had enjoyed so many hours of happiness with her mother and grandmother, and he never was better than when travelling quite free from fatigue.

It was a proposal perfectly consonant to Frederica's wishes, and she accordingly dispatched her letters of excuses.

They passed through Devonshire into Somersetshire, and from Bristol crossed the Severn into Wales, and at length arrived at Wrexham.

They had travelled by very slow stages, resting frequently at different places for several days, where there was any thing worthy of their inspection, or if the weather was oppressively warm.

Captain Hildebrand revived, and Frederica was consequently quite herself. She proposed to her grandfather to hire a house for a short time in his favorite village, as she wished to be made acquainted with the different walks and rides that her mother used to delight in.

Their wishes were laws to each other, and Captain Hildebrand complied.

Frederica rose at an early hour anxious to hasten to the village. Immediately after breakfast she proposed to go; as the weather was too sultry to walk, they went in the chaise which put up at the little neat looking inn.

"We will go, my child," said the captain, "first to the place where your father and mother were introduced to each other."

Frederica silently put her arm within her grandfather's, and motioned to proceed. Utterance seemed denied to her, and her companion appeared equally unable to speak. She felt as if she was treading holy ground—they arrived at a neat thatched cottage.

Captain Hildebrand led Frederica to a small level lawn. She looked up in his face—it was suffused with tears—they were infectious without being able to assign any specific cause, save sympathy, her eyes overflowed.

"It was here my best love," said the veteran at length, "that Ferdinand first beheld the lovely Maria Hildebrand mixing in the village dance. You remember your mother perfectly; but the beautiful tint of her complexion was less radiant when you began to take notice, and the girlishness of her form was no longer visible; yet you must recollect sufficient to be sensible how touchingly enchanting she was at seventeen, when her gossamer-like figure and charming smile delighted all beholders. She was

the darling of the village; many are yet alive who will rejoice to hear her name. We will enter this cottage. Dry your eyes, sweet one, I want to shew the honest inhabitants the improved likeness of their favorite."

The captain rapped at the door with his stick—a decent looking woman opened it, who, uttering an exclamation, fled precipitately from their view.

"This is very strange," said Frederica.

"Indeed it is," replied the captain. "Time has changed her, but I think that was Mrs. Jones—let us go in."

Work was lying about the room, as if some one had lately been there; they distinctly heard a loud sobbing, and a soft voice, apparently offering consola-

tions—a few stairs led to the room from which it proceeded. Frederica's curiosity was raised, and she ascended; it became less violent, and at length ceased.

"As sure as I be alive," said the person, (who proved by her voice, that she had been crying,) "that be Miss's ghost if ever I did see her. Let me go down, mother, and look if so be as she be gone."

"No, child; master and her may take you to heaven with them, for I do dare say they be come about some such matter."

Frederica descended. "The mystery, dear sir, is explained."

She then related the conversation she had overheard. "The good woman certainly takes me for the spirit of my

mother, and you, I fancy she cannot believe to be in existence. Which will be the best method of undeceiving them?"

"Let us wait a little, my dear, she may suffer her daughter, who is more courageous than herself, to venture presently; and as she has never seen me or your mother, she is not so likely to be the victim of fear."

The event verified Captain Hildebrand's predictions. After waiting near half an hour, the chamber-door gently opened, and a fat good-natured looking girl appeared; Frederica motioned to her to advance, which she did with a mixture of fear and confidence; coutesyingly approaching, she said, "Pray, madam, if I may be so bold, are you a ghost, or real flesh and blood?"

"Indeed," returned Frederica, laughing, and presenting her hand, "I am not a spirit."

"So I told mother, but she would not believe me; I said hobgoblins could not walk in the sun."

"Tell your mother, my good girl, that her late master, Captain Hildebrand, and his daughter's child, wish to see her; I am sure it will give her pleasure."

"That it will," she replied, returning to the room she had quitted.

She was a very short time in making her mother comprehend the truth, who descended immediately with her, fixing her eyes stedfastly on Frederica.

"Mary," said Captain Hildebrand, "do you not remember me?"

"Yes, sir, that I do; but I heard

that miss and you went to foreign parts, and that there you both died. Aye, I could swear any where to this being her daughter: she is the very moral of her I am sure; I took it for her herself, who was one of the kindest, sweetest young ladies that God's sun ever shone on."

Captain Hildebrand then asked some questions respecting her family.

Her husband had been dead seven years, and Mary, who, she said, was a kind-hearted girl, was almost the sole support of them both. "As I am an Englishwoman," added she, "I did not like to hear my child say, 'Cot pless us;' so I sent her to school at Chester, which I could afford to do, when my husband lived; but things went on but badly

after his death. So Mary takes scholars; but it be her holiday-time now. I should like for us to go to England, if so be as we could get there."

Frederica looked at her grandfather.

He understood the expressive glance, and said, " Should you have any objection to going into servitude again, if your daughter was in the same house with you ?"

She told the captain it was the very thing nearest her heart.

He then proposed their residing with them.

The good woman was enraptured at the idea, and the good-humoured face of Mary shone and reddened with delight at the prospect.

They agreed, as soon as ever theyhad

a house, to let Mrs. Jones and her daughter know.

Captain Hildebrand, putting a ten pound note in her hand, promised that they would call frequently during their stay in the village, at her cottage, and quitted it, accompanied by the blessing and praises of its inhabitants, which were, particularly by the mother, bestowed upon Frederica, whose pretty face, she said, she could look at all day; it was so like her dear, sweet Miss Maria's, whose memory always gave her pleasure; she was so good to every body.

CHAP. XXVI.

What happiness the rural maid attends,
In chearful labour, while each day she spends!
She gratefully receives what heav'n has sent,
And rich in poverty, enjoys content.

GAY.

IT was with difficulty that Captain Hildebrand and Frederica could tear themselves from a village that had so many charms for them. Most of the inhabitants of its little vicinity recollected the captain, and spoke of his daughter in the affectionate terms of uninstructed nature.

Artless, energetic, unimbellished, attractive goddess! how mild, how engaging is thy language! How do I, when I reflect upon thy genuine virtues, detest the sophisticated opinions of the man of the world! Would to Heaven we all studied thee a little more. Thy reign must come; thine opposite art cannot for ever usurp and retain dominion. Man's visual optic must be cleared —the original powers of his mind must resume their sway, and thou, Nature, thy empire.

Captain Hildebrand wrote to his agent to procure him a house in one of the fashionable streets, and specified the kind they wished. The fitting of it up he left entirely to the upholsterer, only desiring every thing to be neat and ele-

gant, and that it might be got ready for their reception as soon as possible.

It was now the beginning of September; they had staid so much beyond the time they had proposed in the village, that their present intention was to visit the Lakes, and then proceed to Harrowgate, and if their house was not ready by the end of the season, they purposed visiting Bath.

Their little tour was delightful.

Before they got to Harrowgate, the captain's agent sent him an account of several houses that were to be disposed of, in charming situations, and which could be made ready to receive them in a very few weeks.

They pitched upon one in Piccadilly, which overlooked the Park.

As soon as it was their's, Frederica wrote to Mrs. Jones to repair there with her daughter.

From Lady Anne Norval, they constantly heard.

Early in November, they were informed their residence was in perfect readiness to receive them; their various servants hired; an elegant chariot, and excellent horses bought.

"As our time is our own, my child," said the captain, "we will, for a short time, visit Bath, and get to London in December."

They did so.—Frederica did not any where go into public, as Lady Anne had made it her request, that she would make her debût in the metropolis.

After an absence of six months, they

arrived in London before Christmas. Their house and domestics seemed perfectly to their mind, and they retired to rest from the fatigue of their journey, accompanied by health, peace, and wealth.

The first persons Frederica saw in the morning, were Mrs. Jones and Mary. It was a delight to her affectionate heart, to hear the former bestow such deserved encomiums upon her deceased parent. She already felt a particular attachment to the worthy woman, and resolved to make the decline of existence as happy to her as possible.

Mary's particular wish was to attend her young lady, who, as soon as she was made acquainted with it, determined the

good girl should be gratified, though she expected at first to find her rather gauche.

A letter from Lady Anne Norval had arrived some days previous to their return to town. It was very short, saying, immediately after Christmas, they should leave their seat; and an earnest request that Frederica would still, for a very short time, keep herself secluded, as her ladyship's particular wish was that she might be the first to present her favorite to the world.

Frederica proposed to Captain Hildebrand, to take an airing to Hampstead, to see Mrs. Newton, and afterwards to call at the Earl of Kilvain's and Mrs. Temple's, and make some purchases. "Lady Anne cannot, I think," she said,

" object to my paying morning visits to such dear friends."

Their new carriage soon was ready for them; it was perfectly elegant in every respect, and the horses noble, proud-looking animals.

Frederica felt gratified when she contemplated the equipage from her dressing-room window, and reflected that it was her grandfather's, and solely at her command.

Mrs. Newton was delighted to see them, and said, " Ah! miss, I always thought that you would be something great. I am sure, when I used to come and see you in Blenheim Street, I used to think those poor little lodgings were not good enough for you."

" Now then," said Frederica, " you must come and stay a few days in

Piccadilly, and see if you approve of our new residence. There is a good woman there, who lived with my mother, who I am sure will do all in her power to make you comfortable, when I tell her how kind you have been to me."

Before they left Hampstead, Frederica gave Mrs. Newton a piece of handsome dark brown poplin, which she had purchased for her to make a gown of.

It pleased her old friend of course, who said she would have it made up on purpose to visit her in.

They found Lady Charlotte Kilvain at home; the earl was gone to Acton to transact some business there with his lawyer; as that was rather a dull kind of ceremony, Lady Charlotte said she had requested to be left at home in town.

They easily prevailed upon her ladyship to return with them to Piccadilly, and leave word to inform her father where she was, and request of him to follow her.

They deferred their visit to Mrs. Temple, consequently; but before they returned home, Frederica purchased a very capital harp, grand piano-forte, and a large collection of excellent music.

One of the rooms, she told Captain Hildebrand, she wished to have fitted up entirely to her own taste, where she would have her books, musical instruments, and implements for drawing. "It is a kind of apartment I have been wishing for all my life," said she, "but never expected to obtain."

Lady Charlotte declared she was enchanted that it was now in her power.

"I am sure," added she, "I think both your grandfather and self will make a good use of your money; you will enjoy it in procuring every elegant comfort, without being profuse, and will be generous, without ostentation."

"How little you know of me," said Frederica; "I am afraid, when I enter into those scenes with which I am only acquainted by name, my head will turn giddy, and I shall be lost in the vortex of extravagance. I dare say that I shall lavish immoderate sums upon my dress. I am sure I shall be whimsical; and in our tour, when my grandfather has been quietly sleeping in one corner of the chaise, my brain has been employed in fancying a variety of the prettiest fashions imaginable."

"And a very laudable occupation for a decent young woman," returned her ladyship. "I dare say you have a great deal of taste, and it would have been an abominable shame if the dormant spark had not been roused into existence."

The following morning, when the carriage was waiting to convey them to Mrs. Temple's, a thundering knock proclaimed a visitor.

"It can only be Lady Charlotte Kilvain," said Frederica, rising from her harp to receive her.

The door was thrown open, and Mrs. Claresby announced, who, advancing to Frederica, embraced her with every demonstration of the most adulative affection, and uttering congratulations upon her recent good fortune with such ar-

pidity that it was impossible for any one to attempt speaking a syllable till there was a cessation of volubility. "If it was possible," said she, "to be angry for one instant with so beautiful a creature, I think I have very great reason; I came prepared to scold, but such a countenance as that must disarm wrath.

'Look in her face.'

My dear, you know the poet's words."

Without appearing to notice her compliment, Frederica coolly asked in what she had been unfortunate enough to offend her.

"Never letting me know, but by chance, of the fortunate revolution of your affairs. No one ought, in future, to accuse the goddess who has distin-

guished you so particularly, of being blind; to bestow her favors upon those so pre-eminently deserving of them, must be something beyond the effect of mere chance."

"To tell you the truth," replied Frederica, "I called so very frequently at one time, in Clifford Street, and was always denied admittance, that you must excuse me, if I could not avoid thinking that my visits would be deemed intrusive, therefore I ceased them. At the time of Mr. Malden's death, I was so occupied in preparing for our long journey, that I only thought of those few dear friends who had cherished and supported me in poverty, and who did not rejoice at our riches, because they regarded us in a more superior light, but that

I should be released from what I never considered as a fatigue, and that my grandfather would be enabled to obtain those comforts and elegancies to which, in the early part of his life, he had been accustomed."

Mrs. Claresby evidently felt Frederica's speech in its full force, though she did not seem to notice it, and began an elaborate apology, saying, antecedent to her dear Emma's marriage, they had had so many engagements respecting business, that they had offended one half of their friends.

Frederica turned the discourse by enquiring after her family.

Captain Seymour, she said, was now in town; the regiment to which he belonged, had, the preceding week, marched

into Horsham Barracks. Sophia was quite well and happy, and so was Emma Harcourt, though she often wished the dear girl had not treated Major Fitzraymond so ill, as he was in every respect a most unexceptionable match. Mr. Claresby, she added, often mentioned her in terms of the most ardent respect and admiration;—he would have the honor of leaving his ticket with her porter some morning, as he could not hope to be fortunate enough to gain admittance.

Frederica, with all her sweetness of disposition, could not avoid returning rather a satirical smile to this speech, as Mr. Claresby had never endeavoured to obtain access to her, when in the humble lodging from which she sallied every

morning, with true filial piety, to earn by the efforts of her own industry, those comforts the declining years of her grandfather required.

CHAP. XXVII.

Let us lift the gladsome shout,
Let us wake the midnight rout,
Briskly let us all advance,
In the sprightly woven dance,
Ev'ry deed on ev'ry side,
Let the soul of rapture guide.
Care begone! and Grief adieu!
What have ye with Joy to do?

MR. HARTIS.

MRS. CLARESBY had detained them so long, that just as they were getting into their carriage, Mrs. and the Miss Temples passed in theirs. They were going to the Park, but recognising their friends, checked the coachman.

Frederica sent the footman to inform them of the visit they were setting off to make them, and to request they would alight.

They immediately acquiesced, and welcomed them to town with the genuine smile of satisfaction.

A few months had improved the Miss Temples wonderfully; they were three elegant, lively, unaffected girls.

"I am very much blamed, Miss Koningsberg," said Mrs. Temple, "by my friends, for a thing I am going to do to-morrow."

"What can that possibly be, madam?"

"It is not of sufficient importance to keep your curiosity on the qui vive, therefore I will tell you:—I mean to intro-

duce my three daughters on the same day to her Majesty."

"And why are you blamed for that, madam?"

"All my acquaintance tell me it is the most unpolite thing imaginable. I must never expect to marry Louisa and Maria; their novelty will have ceased ere it ought to commence. I only study the philosophy of obtaining happiness. My girls do not like to be separated, either from each other or from me; if I was only to take Augusta to St. James's, she of course could only visit with me this winter, and the other two would, I dare say, look very angry at being obliged to stay at home and comfort each other."

"Ah! that we should," replied

Maria. "Is not my mother's resolution a very laudable one, Frederica?"

"I really think extremely so, and admire Mrs. Temple for persevering in it."

"Don't you intend being presented?" demanded Mrs. Temple.

"Certainly not," returned Frederica. "Lady Anne Norval and my grandfather say it would be useless and ostentatious; I have no great and noble relations in England, who could be gratified at my appearing in the presence of royalty, and some who remember the employment I was engaged in last winter, might ridicule me for it. I am too obscure to render it necessary, and I shall mix as largely in society without it."

"I agree entirely, my dear; now that

I have heard your reasons, they are conclusive."

Frederica then informed the ladies of Lady Anne's desire for her not to go into public till she had been at her first winter party.

"My girls," said Mrs. Temple, "shall wait till then; you shall all appear together, and strike beholders dumb."

The Norval family arrived in town according to promise, and Lady Anne immediately issued out cards of invitation to all her friends, as she resolved to have one of the largest parties she had ever given.

Frederica was to throw off her mourning for Mr. Malden. She had been taking lessons in dancing, preparatory

ever since her arrival in town, as she had only learnt in Prussia.

At length the long wished-for day arrived.—The animation of her heart gave additional bloom to her cheeks, and sparkling vivacity to her eyes. Her dress was white and silver, fancied in the most elegant style, and made to set off the delicate proportion of her form to admiration. A loose drapery of the most brilliant-looking silver muslin was fastened to her left shoulder with a knot of diamonds. This was caught up in various graceful folds, with loops of the same precious stones. Lady Charlotte Kilvain's woman, who excelled in dressing hair, braided up Frederica's. It was folded in a variety of glossy bands, which seemed to be solely confined by a

small wreath of diamonds, which were made to represent jessamin and its leaves —the united present of the earl and his daughter.

There was a simplicity in the dress, although it was splendid, that did not disguise one of Frederica's natural graces.

Lady Anne Norval and Lady Charlotte Kilvain had met in Piccadilly, and became acquainted. They liked each other very much; and, to the delight of the fair Prussian, her friend received a card for the party in Hanover Square.

They went together.—Lady Charlotte had taken more than usual pains with herself, and when she preceded Frederica into Lady Anne's drawing-room, they attracted universal admiration.

The former was known by many, but the beauty and novelty of the other was a general object of fascination and wonder.

As the rooms continued filling, the sentiments of course gained added votaries.

Every thing she beheld was a fresh source of amusement to Frederica, and she felt quite angry with a variety of young men who would engage her at different times in conversation.

Her remarks delighted Lady Charlotte, who, having from infancy been used to similar circles, had never experienced any of those feelings, the utterance of which pleased her so, from her companion.

Her ladyship was obliged to quit her

side for a short time, to speak to a friend on the opposite part of the room.

Frederica perceived a young man approaching her, and disinclined to enter into conversation with a stranger, she flew for refuge to the Earl of Kilvain and her grandfather; and putting an arm within each of theirs, began to give her opinion of several things that particularly attracted her notice.

The young man turned back, disappointed, and joined two ladies who were sitting on a sopha.

"I think, Vernon, you were completely foiled there," said the youngest of the two.

"How beautiful she is!" was the reply.

"Why, very well; but every action

proves she is perfectly acquainted with that."

"I cannot agree with you," replied Mr. Vernon, "she seems to me to be perfectly unconscious of the extent of her charms."

"Your most obedient humble servant, Mr. Civility; but however, Vernon's rudeness is actually become proverbial."

"You must indeed be perfectly infatuated," said the elder lady, who had not yet spoken; "if you do not allow that she played off the most finished piece of coquetry to you this instant. The style in which you approached her, evinced sufficiently that your intention was to address her; she perceived it, and with the most consummate art, she

placed herself between the Earl of Kil-vain and that other veteran, who looks like old Priam. A rose-tree never appears so bloomingly lovely as when placed between two leafless thorns. That, I dare say, she has often heard, and improved upon the idea."

"Fye, fye, Miss Hudson! I actually am ashamed of some of the women I am doomed to converse with. There is so much illiberality in the sex, if a female is young and beautiful, it is sufficient to render them objects of obloquy to those who are not so fortunate."

Saying this, he walked from them into one of the adjoining rooms, and left the fair detractors, who endeavoured to hide their mortification under the cover of a loud, but *truly fashionable laugh*.

The sets were beginning to form in the dancing-room. Lady Charlotte joined the trio.

Mrs. and the Miss Temples very soon entered. Frederica thought, Lady Charlotte excepted, they were three of the most charming girls in the room.

Lady Anne Norval introduced Mr. Mordant to Frederica, and desired him to lead her into the ball-room.

She cast a timid glance at Lady Charlotte, entreating compassion. It was a part of the evening she had contemplated with dread, as she never had borne a part in a country dance.

"There is not any thing particularly dreadful," whispered her ladyship, "in what you are going to undertake; all that is wanted is a little confidence."

Mrs. Claresby and her son, at an immoderately late hour, entered the room, as Lady Anne, for the first time, invited them to one of her nights, thinking it would please Frederica, and be a kind of acknowledgment for the civilities the mother had shewed her.

As soon as Mrs. Claresby could force her way through the crowd, she went up to Frederica, and asked what she did to herself to appear so lovely; she actually looked more beautiful every time she beheld her.

Mr. Claresby likewise came to make his bow, dressed, as he thought, to the very last turn of fashion, and looking perfectly ridiculous; while the fond mother, alternately gazing at her son and those young men who were entirely

free from puppyism, felt surprised that they did not take more pains with their appearance, and endeavour to imitate Mr. Claresby.

After the two first dances, Frederica felt completely at her ease, and entered with elegance into the animating amusement.

At a late hour, the supper-rooms were thrown open; after which, they again went to dancing, and the chief part of the company did not quit Hanover Square till between seven and eight.

Mrs. Temple took Frederica home, as Captain Hildebrand had retired from the assembly before supper.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Graceful to sight, and elegant to thought,
The great are vanquish'd, and the wise are taught;
Her breeding finished, and her temper sweet,
When serious, easy, and when gay, discreet;
Sincere and warm, with zeal well understood,
She takes a noble pride in doing good;
Yet not superior to her sex's cares,
The mode she fixes by the gown she wears.

YOUNG.

FREDERICA did not join her grandfather till dinner-time the day after the dance, and then amused him completely for the evening, with the different remarks the variety she had witnessed excited.

They soon grew familiar to her; as one scene of gaiety succeeded another with such rapidity, she had scarcely time to pause for reflection.

Lady Charlotte Kilvain and herself were inseparable, and universal objects of admiration. Their beauty and vivacity gave attraction to every circle; their fashions were generally adopted, and as they never descended into the ridiculous, and had infinite taste, they were approved by the most fastidious.

Lovers were now no novelty to Frederica, and she often laughed with Lady Anne Norval, at the *long list* of male acquaintance she had formerly made out.

The Earl of Kilvain's and Captain Hildebrand's parties, at which their daughter

and grandchild presided, being conducted by young, fashionable women, were the most agreeable about town.

The captain only accompanied Frederica to dinner parties; when she went to her assemblies, he retired to rest, imploring Heaven for a continuance of those blessings to his darling she so deservedly enjoyed.

Youth, beauty, fortune, and accomplishments, such as the two friends possessed, entitled, and obtained for them, many offers from some of the first young men in the kingdom.

Frederica's heart remained perfectly her own. The attentions she received, amused her, and from use, she would have found an assembly vapid and insipid, without the adulation she so constantly met. It

was very seldom that her vanity was gratified by any of the compliments that were paid her. She was superior to the mean art of torturing, when she was convinced a man was really attached; but an evening flirtation always served to give a zest to the morning repast, while laughing it over with her grandfather.

To the generality of men, she was the complete girl of fashion—gay, thoughtless—occasionally adapting her manners to her society, she would even descend to the frivolous.

She would, at another time, like Maria in the Citizen, after making them imagine she was a mere woman of ton, burst upon them in the full effulgence of soul and sentiment, although in as-

semblies, and crowded parties, she would be all versatility and variety to the foplings of fashion.

In the domestic scene, or in the society of her real friends, she was still the same generous, open-hearted, ingenuous girl. Her affection and attention to her grandfather seemed to increase. If she was decked in all her charms, to attend the most brilliant party, from which she was aware she should derive the greatest pleasure, and which had for some days been anticipated with satisfaction; if a wish, however remote, was breathed by Captain Hildebrand, that they could pass that evening together, an excuse was dispatched, her plain muslin robe resumed, and by her lively conversation, and engaging man-

ners, seemed not only to endeavour to convince her grandfather that she endured no mortification from the change, but likewise that she was the person obliged.

Her charity was just and discriminating; momentary compassion made her relieve the beggar who solicited at her chariot door, but reflective benevolence made her wish to find out those who had been reduced from contented competence by the bitter hand of misfortune to urgent want; for this description of sufferers she considered it was the individual hand alone that could tender assistance. For the very poor, there are in the kingdom, munificent establishments to which they can resort: to the suddenly reduced, none;—honest

pride deters. · These it was her ambition to seek, not ostentatiously, but privately.

To her mother's former servant, she deputed the delightful task of finding out and relieving the worthy; and often would the tear of admiration bedew the good woman's cheeks, when she beheld the daughter of her beloved mistress caressing a child whom she had possibly presented to lisp its little tale of gratitude for saving its worthy and industrious father from the horrors of a prison, and enabling him to procure for itself and little brothers and sister, the benefit of decent education.

She often said, "My good Jones, why do you praise me for what yields the most sensible gratification? If those who are gifted with fortunes, did but

consider how much good they could do with a little money, and could be made sensible of the delight it affords, there would not be near the number of distressed there are in the world. I see a locket, a pin, a necklace, for which I long—you tell me of an object of real distress, I dispense with the trinket, of which, in a very few days, I should be tired, and add another jewel to the casket of mental enjoyment, which must ever be new—ever productive of fresh rapture. You see," added she, smiling, "I am one of the most interested beings imaginable; my own ultimate happiness seems to be the primary spring of all my actions."

Lady Charlotte Kilvain, with all her wit, gaiety, and repartee, could not

be entirely shielded from the shafts of Cupid.

Lord Drumlandrie was an ensign in the Guards—the perfect counterpart of her ladyship in every respect. They walked, rode, danced, and sung together.

The Earl of Kilvain and the late viscount had been schoolfellows, and an intimacy firm and strong, continued till the death of the latter.

The young viscount was constantly in Arlington Street.—At times, he would treat Lady Charlotte with the easy familiarity of a brother, and at times, like the most enraptured lover. If she particularly noticed any one else, he seemed uneasy; but as he had never decidedly expressed the nature of the sentiments

she inspired, her ladyship could not, of course, consider him as a lover, though her heart frequently acknowledged, if he was not, it was a matter of the most perfect indifference who was.

Thus passed Frederica's first winter of happiness.

Captain Hildebrand, every morning, when the weather permitted, either took an airing in the carriage, or on horseback, in the Park. Frederica usually accompanied him.

In one of their rides about the end of April, they saw two gentlemen riding towards the carriage.

Frederica recognised Colonel Ashford and Major Fitzraymond.

The latter gazed earnestly, without appearing to recollect her; and the co-

lonel deeply engaged in conversation, did not seem to notice the chariot.

This she perceived, and as they passed the carriage, exclaimed, "You shall not pretend to forget your old friends."

He started at the sound of the voice, saying, "Ah! my pensive friend, how was it possible to know your face in that new garb."

"I insist," she replied, "upon never being called pensive again; I have not any right to the appellation: I am become one of the greatest rattles upon earth. I am sure, when I last saw you, I appeared nearly as happy as I do now."

"No, indeed, you did not; the traces of melancholy were sometimes visible: but I suppose, now you are a great for-

tune, you are grown proud and disagreeable, and have got into such a habit of laughing at the world, that your countenance always looks as smiling as at present."

"Dine with me at six o'clock to-day," said Captain Hildebrand, "and then you will be able to form a more accurate judgment, and I think you must then own, that 'pensive friend,' when applied to my roguish little companion, is rather a misnomer."

Clonel Ashford said, not any thing would make him so happy, and that he would make a point of waiting upon him.

The captain presented him with his address.

"Pray," demanded Frederica, "is

Major Fitzraymond rude, forgetful, or near-sighted? for he stared very much at me, without seeming to remember he had ever seen me."

"How should he?" replied the colonel; "I am very certain I should not have recollected you, had I not been in your company since your meeting your grandfather. You must exonerate George; it is near two years since you met, and I am sure he would not have rode on, if he had had any idea who you were."

"Very well, I forgive him. Now put spurs to your Rozinante, and ride after him; for you are detaining us, as I have fifty things to do before dinner."

"I beg your pardon; I had no idea you were a lady of so much business."

Then, bowing with friendly good-humour to the captain and Frederica, he obeyed her orders.

CHAP. XXIX.

Long did my soul with easy freedom rove,
Nor felt the breathings of an anxious love;
To me the sparkling eye and heaving breast,
Soft looks and tender sighs, and all the rest
That lovers die for, seem'd an idle jest.

DUNCOMBE.

WHEN Colonel Ashford overtook the major, he immediately exclaimed, "Who was that lovely girl, and respectable looking old man you stopped to speak to?"

"Is it possible you do not recollect one whom you admire so much, George?"

"There is something in her countenance that appears familiar to me," he replied," "but I cannot tell where I have seen her."

"You really think her handsome?"

"Beautiful! Who is she? Nay, I do not know if she is critically beautiful; but there is a something beyond that in my opinion: I never saw so much soul in any woman's eyes in my life.—Who is she Ashford?"

"If you were to see her out of the carriage, you would say her figure was perfect, more so than her face."

"I perceive, Charles, you do not choose to tell me, so I shall very patiently wait till you feel inclined; I believe that is Lady Danver's curricle?"

"She asked me," said the Colonel, "if you were rude, forgetful, or near sighted, as you stared so much at her."

"Do tell me her name?

"Koningsberg."

"Koningsberg! What that pale interesting looking girl who sung so sweetly, and always wore a large bonnet; if it is the same, that was the humble friend of the Miss Claresby's, she never raised her eyes from the ground: can Fortune have made such a difference in her appearance—transformed a merely pretty girl into one of the most perfect of Nature's works, in future I shall pay my adoration to the blind goddess."

"You are perfectly in heroics, your prose is 'run mad.' It is not the acquisition of wealth alone that has wrought

this change; Frederica's mind appears to me, too nobly generous to be alone influenced by fortune; an almost instantaneous change was produced by the recovery of her grandfather, whom you may remember, I told you had been cruelly taken from her by the man who was enjoying his estate."

Colonel Ashford had told Fitzraymond the latter part of Frederica's history, but forbore to mention the former, as it might get round and pain her, and, besides, the dissemination of the story would rather be productive of harm.

There was a large party that day at Captain Hildebrand's, who Frederica delighted with her elegance and gaiety.

Seated between the Earl of Kilvain and his nephew, she was perfectly at

her ease, and performed the honors of the table with a grace unrivalled.

Colonel Ashford had never before seen her in a similar situation—he was enchanted, and began to agree with Fitzraymond, that she was one of the most perfect of Nature's works.

The evening concluded with a little concert, in which Lady Charlotte Kilvain and Frederica bore principal parts.

They sung duetts in a most superior style, accompanied by the touching tones of the harp.

"What a happy—what an enviable mortal will that be, who is fortunate enough to obtain such a girl as Miss Koningsberg!" soliloquized Colonel Ashford, when he left Piccadilly. For almost the first time in his life, he felt a

melancholy for which he could not account. Nursed in the lap of high birth and fortune, at a very early period of existence his own master, he had scarce formed a wish which it was not in his power to gratify. At length from the certainty of obtaining whatever he desired, he had in a great measure ceased to be anxious about any thing, from the confidence he felt of his power to attain. Gay and good-humoured, he took the world as he found it. Too indolent to cultivate his natural excellent understanding, from finding a very little book knowledge was sufficient for a soldier; his person rather elegant than handsome, and his manners evinced the finished man of fashion.

For the first time in his life he began

to feel the full power of female fascination; woman, he had often declared to be his idol—without their society, existence must be a blank too intolerable to endure.

He, it is true, had scarcely ever visited an assembly without declaring the following morning to his gay companions, that he was irrecoverably lost, as his heart was pierced by one of Cupid's keenest darts, levelled at him from the eyes of his bewitching partner of the last evening.—They knew him, and smiled, affirming, the next beauty he saw, would cicatrize the wound of which he complained so bitterly.

They were ever just in those predictions, but the effect Frederica's tout ensemble of perfection inspired, excited

emotions widely dissimilar to any he had ever before experienced.

For the first time he felt to doubt the possibility of obtaining a woman's affection, even with the utmost assiduity. "But however," cried he, "a soldier should not be discouraged from attempting to lay siege to so fair a citadel, though it seems next to impossible to force the entrenchments of a heart so well fortified by every virtue and elegance that can dignify and add lustre to humanity. It can surely only be the prototype of such excellence that can expect to gain the fortress of perfectness; but I will make the attempt—the greater the apparent difficulty, the more honor I shall achieve, should I be fortunate enough to succeed."

With this resolution he closed his eyes.

In pleasing visions he still saw Frederica, and awoke more enchanted with her image than he had been the preceding day, and at an early hour in the forenoon, called to pay his respects. He found Lady Charlotte's horses at the door.

As the friends were going to ride in the Park with Captain Hildebrand, he obtained permission to join them, and quitted them to order his groom to get his horses.

"I like that cousin of yours amazingly, Charlotte," said Frederica, when the colonel left them.

"I wish you would have him then, my dear; money you do not want, but

Charles has plenty of that, and besides is heir you know, to the earldom of Kilvain."

"Upon my word I shall take it into serious consideration:—by the by, let us desire him to come to our box this evening at the opera."

"Certainly; I begin to think that there are some hopes for Charles—you are more than usually civil."

"You must recollect that Colonel Ashford was the only young man at Mrs. Claresby's, who ever paid me any common attention; and I really feel a degree of gratitude and friendship for it."

"The elegant Fitzraymond surely noticed you; if all I have heard of him is true, your dependent situation would

awaken his sympathy, and render you an object of attraction."

"At that time," replied Frederica, "Miss Claresby imagined he was paying his addresses to her, and she did not like any one else to be regarded. Whe-he treated her ill, or she him, I cannot say; but there certainly was some very strange mismanagement in the affair; however I do not blame the elegant Fitzraymond, as you call him. But, talking of that description of men, reminds me of Lord Drumlandrie. I thought he was more than usually charming yesterday, and blew the flute so exquisitely, I was more than half in love with him; and had I not, like the mild Statira, dreaded the anger of the haughty Roxana, I believe I should have

been quite so. Let the man who wishes to obtain my favor, have the taste and execution upon that soul-inspiring instrument that the viscount has. The soft, mellifluous, melting cadences, seem to waft my soul to the regions of peace and harmony, and I almost forget for the time, that I am a being of this world."

"Really, Frederica! That is a *moving* rhapsody in the true style of ancient heroics. Drumlandrie has been this morning more lavish in praising your skill upon the harp than you have his on the flute; he makes himself very disagreeable. If he really loves me, his treatment is cruel; and if not, why, your lively, laughter-loving friend, will still continue in the state of single bles-

sedness. So, as our horses have been waiting an immense time, we will send, if you please, to let the captain know we attend his pleasure.

CHAP. XXX.

——— Dignity and grace
Adorn his frame, and manly beauty, join'd
With strength Herculean, on his aspect shines
Sublimest virtue, and desire of fame,
Where justice gives the laurel, in his eye
The inextinguishable spark which fires
The soul of patriots.

FAIRFAX'S TASSO.

LORD KILVAIN and Captain Hildebrand had hired an opera-box for the season, for the accommodation of the two friends, and as they were both doatingly fond of music, and of seeing the adoration which was every where paid

their young favorites, they attended them whenever they went.

Colonel Ashford received the pleasing mandate to attend them in the evening, and more than ever enraptured with Frederica, he returned from his ride to dress for dinner.

Major Fitzraymond was at his lodgings when he arrived.

His first enquiry was after the lovely Frederica Koningsberg.

"Lovely indeed!" returned Colonel Ashford; "she is the most enchanting girl in creation."

"To hear you in raptures, Charles, is not an uncommon thing. How long do you think your present enthusiasm will last?"

"It will only terminate with my existence."

"Bravo! This is delightful, and only wants the charm of novelty to recommend it."

"George," said Colonel Ashford, gravely, "listen to what I am going to say. I do not speak from the effervescence of a heated imagination, as in former cases, but I actually love Frederica; my pride—my ambition, will be to render myself worthy of her, and should I succeed to the happiness of calling her mine, did I not, by my future conduct, evince my eternal gratitude, I should be the most depraved of human beings. She is not one of those lovely creatures for whom I have so often felt l'amour passager, and whose

qualifications were merely extrinsic. I know her soul to be the abode of truth and virtue; I have seen her in circumstances widely different to the present, and have admired her in all."

"Then why did you not feel your present sentiments when she was the dependent of the capricious Miss Claresbys? You noticed her then only from motives of compassion; for had she not received some slight attention from you, she would have been totally neglected."

"That is very true; and had she continued in a similar situation, I never should have thought of making her my wife; the disparity of our fortunes would have precluded the idea; and another thing, Fitzraymond, is, that

we never feel the attraction of virtue, youth, and goodness, more strongly than when they are cloathed in the bewitching garb of fascinating female loveliness."

The major was a man too much devoted to beauty to deny the position. He staid some time with Colonel Ashford, and in the course of conversation, asked if he purposed being at the opera in the evening.

He replied, he was to attend two of the most charming women in England there.

"Their names are of course, Kilvain and Koningsberg," said Major Fitzraymond.

"You are perfectly correct in your judgment."

"Then I shall have the honor of paying my respects to them, and making suitable apologies to Miss Koningsberg, for my forgetfulness."

Frederica looked more than usually enchanting that evening, and Lady Charlotte was just the kind of figure and face that painters would represent for beauty's queen.

Lord Drumlandrie was of course by her side, and Colonel Ashford in earnest conversation with Frederica, when the box-door opened, and Major Fitzraymond entered.

After paying his respects to Lady Charlotte, with the most graceful ease, he apologized to Frederica, for his apparent rudeness of the preceding morning, assuring her it was the very great

improvement he witnessed in her that had occasioned it. "When we last met," said he, "you seemed like an animated statue of sorrow."

"You bring to my mind," returned Frederica, "days of acute misery; but I think it is perfectly right to reflect upon them sometimes; it renders my present happiness more complete."

For a minute, she was lost in thought, as if reverting to former hours; but seeming to recollect herself, she threw off the thinking cast, and entered into a lively conversation.

The party were engaged to sup at the Earl of Kilvain's, and he easily prevailed upon Major Fitzraymond to join them.

At a late hour, they separated, mutually charmed; and Captain Hildebrand

was so pleased with the major, that, shaking him heartily by the hand, before they parted, he gave him a most cordial invitation to Piccadilly, which the other accepted with delight.

Major Fitzraymond was a man who was universally approved; his knowledge was so extensive, and his different modes of enchanting so various, that with the young and old—rich or poor, he was a general favorite.

"Is not Frederica an irresistible girl?" said Colonel Ashford to his friend, when they quitted the earl's.

"She really is," he replied; "I could not have supposed such an alteration could have been produced in so short a period. I never beheld two such attractive women as your cousin and her

friend, they are both so pre-eminently charming, that the beauty of one rather seems to add fresh graces to the other, and their vivacity and repartee would certainly be less enchantingly inspiriting, if they were separated.

"You have now, George," said Colonel Ashford, "an invitation from Captain Hildebrand, you will of course with avidity make use of the permission to visit in that house which is adorned by having Frederica for its mistress; I must, therefore, assure you my intention is to employ all my skill in the endeavour to obtain that lovely prize. If I fail, and I can scarcely hope to succeed, my happiness, I feel convinced, will be for ever forfeited; I inform you of this, as it may prevent you from wishing to

gain a heart, without which I shall be wretched."

Fitzraymond smiled at the lover-like caution, but assured his friend he need not entertain any fears respecting him, as his admiration of Frederica did not appear as if it would ever extend to the bounds of love, and now that he was master of his sentiments, it would of course check those feelings, which had he felt any propensity that way, it might have been his wish to encourage.

They parted—Fitzraymond to enjoy the comforts of refreshing repose, and Ashford to reflect upon his divine Frederica.

The colonel and major became distinguished guests in Piccadilly.

While Ashford was exerting all his powers of pleasing upon Frederica, Fitzraymond, would sit and hear the veteran captain,

"Fight his battles o'er again,"

and amuse him in return with accounts of the change that military practices had undergone since his time, which was a never-failing source of disquisition and entertainment.

Ashford daily became more enamoured—Frederica less herself; the badinage of Lady Charlotte seemed to pain her.

Her ladyship with pleasure perceived it, and forbore, while to the earl, or in idea, she painted in glowing tints, the satisfaction Charles must experience in the society of such a woman.

The colonel himself proved the ex-

tent of his affection by his silence, he did not feel confident of the sentiments of Frederica, and preferred the present state of suspense to a certainty, he felt himself unable to endure.

Each day he went to Piccadilly, resolved to inform Frederica of his passion, and *each day resolved* to defer it till the next, as his courage, though a soldier, and a brave one, shrunk at the brobability of a refusal.

In this state of mental irresolution, passed several weeks, during which time both himself and Major Fitzraymond paid occasional visits to the barracks.

At length a king's order came for every officer upon leave to join their regiment.

The crisis of Ashford's fate, seemed

now fast approaching, he resolved before he quitted town to be made acquainted with Frederica's sentiments, and with a degree of acquired temporary fortitude he hastened to Piccadilly.

CHAP. XXXI.

While I those hard commands obey,
Which tear me from thee far away,
Never did yet love-tortur'd youth
So clearly prove his ardent truth;
For never woman charm'd like thee,
And never man yet lov'd like me.

All creatures whom fond flames inspire,
Pursue the object they desire;
But I, prepost'rous doom! must prove,
By distant flight, the strongest love;
And every way distress'd by fate,
Must cease t'adore, or meet thy hate.

LORD VISCOUNT CLARE.

THE colonel felt his courage fail, when he was informed that Frederica was at home.

The servant led the way to her favorite apartment, which had been fitted up according to her own taste.

It was one of those warm days that so often render the month of May exquisitely enchanting.

A frame of a peculiarly elegant construction obscured the fire-place, which was filled with the most rare and bloomingly beautiful aromatic plants and exotics. The furniture of the room was pink, with an elegant border of grey that softened the bright tint of the former, which relieved its gravity. The windows were all open, and the Venetian blinds let down to prevent the vivid rays of the sun from entering Frederica's favorite retreat. She was too much the girl of fashion not to study appearance;

therefore the pink curtains were caught up in a kind of careless loose drapery which hung over a part of the blinds to prevent their unbecoming green shade from having its full effect. In the centre of the side opposite the windows was a most elegant sofa, over which there was a canopy, the hangings of it were fanciful and novel in the extreme, entirely after Frederica's taste. Under its flowing folds, she usually sat of a morning before she went out, reading, drawing, or practising the harp.

She was employed in the former study when Colonel Ashford was announced.

He thought he had never seen her look more lovely.—The warmth of the weather, and the lassitude produced by a crowded assembly the preceding even-

ing, diffused a touching langour over her countenance.

Colonel Ashford seemed lost in admiration. They neither of them seemed inclined to speak much.

At length, Frederica said, "I really appear extremely stupid this morning. I believe I must begin to forswear parties for the season;—the heat was intolerable, and I seem not yet to have overcome its effects. To-morrow I hope it will not be so violent; you recollect it is my night. You have long been engaged to us; you know my grandfather will have compleated his seventieth year."

"I shall only stay in town," replied the colonel, "to have the happiness of congratulating him. When I leave

your house, I shall have a chaise at my own door, to convey Fitzraymond and myself to barracks."

Frederica's colour, for an instant, quitted her cheeks, only to return with fresh violence, while, in a tremulous voice, she said, "I trust you must not quit us so soon."

There was a something in her accents that encouraged Ashford to speak; and in the most glowing and impassioned terms, he declared the actual state of his heart.

Frederica was all agitation; she had neither power or inclination to interrupt, and appeared hardly to be sensible that he had ceased speaking.

Silence the most painful to Colonel Ashford, ensued.

It was insufferable, and he at length exclaimed, "Cruel Frederica! speak to me. You are now acquainted with my most innate sentiments; you know I love you."

"I am sorry for it," mournfully replied she.

"Indeed! Then I am miserable."

"Colonel Ashford, be my friend—my brother, but never again hint at the subject of love."

"Is it impossible ever to hope for a return?"

"Impossible! Do not withdraw your friendship from me; I value it: but endeavour to root from your heart, an affection that can only be productive of uneasiness to us both."

"Vain fool that I was!" exclaimed

Colonel Ashford; "even for an instant, to buoy myself up with the idea of ever calling such superior excellence my own. Frederica, am I asking too much, when I request to know if I have a rival?"

"There is not any one who pretends to my favor, that I esteem in an equal degree to yourself."

"I extract consolation even from that," he replied. "Adieu; I cannot remain here any longer: if ever we meet again seems very uncertain. My regiment will be ordered to foreign service; it may be years ere it returns. I cannot come to-morrow: it is better for us both that I stay away; my melancholy may infect you, and those smiles from which your friends derive so much hap-

piness, should not, even for an instant be obscured. I will not pain your feeling mind by saying that you have deprived me for ever of happiness; I am not so foolishly romantic. The certainty of being beloved by you would have insured me not only terrestial, but celestial felicity, as some of your enchanting virtues must have been elicited into my bosom, and the constant contemplation of perfection could not but have produced effects the most beneficial. But now my heart will be sorrowful, and my visage gloomy, for a great while; yet fresh scenes must soften down the asperity of my fate. To hear of your happiness will ever chear me, and to endeavour to tear your image, combined with love, from my breast, the most earnest

endeavour of my life, and to place there friendship. If I ever so far overcome my feelings, may a few lines from you be held out as my reward? Believe me, I will not claim them till I am entitled to them."

Frederica held out her hand—"To hear from *my friend* (and she laid a peculiar emphasis on the words) will be a real gratification to me; his welfare will always confer pleasure."

Colonel Ashford's present state of mind was too poignant to admit of words. Respectfully kissing that hand which he afterwards pressed to his heart, he rushed from her presence in silence.

Lady Charlotte soon after called upon Frederica. The traces of grief were visible upon her countenance.

With the earnestness of real friendship, she insisted upon her being made acquainted with the cause, and Frederica, unused to disguise, did not attempt to conceal the truth.

"Poor Charles!" said Lady Charlotte. "Search the whole circle of fashion, my dear girl, and you will not be able to discover a more worthy heart; and his affection for you I know to be sincere. I must own to you, Frederica, both my father and myself have, for some time, flattered ourselves with the hope that you regarded Ashford with sentiments more favorable than you bestow on the common herd of adorers."

"It is very true," returned Frederica; "my friendship for Colonel Ashford is real; his conversation never failed of

being a source of amusement to me; if he could not join our parties, I felt mortified. Was necessity to oblige me to unite my fate to the esteemed friend, I should not rend the air with my complaints, at her stern decrees; but he is a man for whom I never felt a particle of love, and situated as I am, I think I should be guilty of a great impropriety, and a force upon my affections, in bestowing only a hand in return for undivided affection."

"How peculiar it will be," said Lady Charlotte, "if you and I were to be old maids at last, after the variety of adorers we have had!"

Frederica replied, it seemed very likely she should;—the attentions of the men began to grow vapid and in-

sipid; they had, within the few last weeks, lost even the power to amuse."

"For Heaven's sake, my dear, recollect yourself," returned her ladyship; "you are fast approaching to the bounds of old-maidism, if you talk thus. I really should like to see you heartily in love; you begin to want something to rouse you, and to prevent your sinking into a state of actual torpidity. It would delight me to hear you saying about the house, 'This love has so rais'd me I now tread on air.'"

CHAP. XXXII.

Would we attain the happiest state
That is design'd us here,
No joy a rapture must create,
No grief beget despair;

No injury fierce anger raise,
No honor tempt to pride,
No vain desires of empty praise
Must in the soul abide.

No charms of youth or beauty move
The constant settled breast;
Who leaves a passage free to love,
Shall let in all the rest.

In such a heart, soft peace will live,
Where none of these abound;
The greatest blessing Heaven does give,
Or can on earth be found.

COUNTESS OF WINCHELSEA.

MANY invitations were declined by Frederica, now, that she might pass

some quiet days with Captain Hildebrand—that on which Colonel Ashford received his dismission, was one that every card had shared a similar fate.

After dinner, she informed her grandfather of the colonel's visit, and its object.

"Did you, my child," said the veteran, "weigh the subject well, before you made known your final determination?"

"No, dear sir; you know my actions proceed usually from the impulse of the moment; I resolved and executed in the same instant."

"I do not like, my Frederica, to tinge an idea of yours with sadness; but I cannot resist the inclination I feel to speak rather seriously to you.—To-

morrow, my darling, your old grandfather will be seventy. It is a great age, my child. Though I am now hale and heart whole, yet God only knows, at my advanced period of life, how long I may be with you. It would be a great consolation to me to see you happily disposed of in marriage, previous to my being called to a better world, and I confess I think Ashford a good fellow; I know but of one young man for whom I have a greater esteem, and that is George Fitzraymond. You and he seem by Heaven designed for each other, and yet there is nothing but friendly civility apparently between you."

A deep blush passed over Frederica's face—she rose, and taking her grandfather's hand, said, "Dear sir, how can

you delight in conjuring up frightful images to terrify me; your constitution seems to renovate, instead of decaying. Look at General Frampton; he will to-morrow evening be with us—the gayest man in company—and he was last birth-day eighty-five. The unstooped dignity of his figure is still unbent by time, and his locks, though silvered," added she, parting Captain Hildebrand's, "are not thinned, but, like yours, only bleached by age, which gives an interest to his demeanour, and an air of irresistible attraction to the hoary veteran."

"Frederica," said the captain, affectionately smiling, "how happy would half of our young nobility be to rank as highly in your estimation as the general does!"

Frederica could not shake off an impression of melancholy which clung to her heart ever since she had refused Colonel Ashford. The declaration of his sentiments were as unexpected as unpleasing. Accustomed to meet an admirer in every man that conversed with her, she was less likely to expect an offer of marriage lurked behind their expressions of enthusiastic approbation than those whose train of

"Fettered knights was less extensive."

On her grandfather's birth-night, when the rooms began to fill, she was obliged to exert herself.

The exertion soon became nature, and her wonted vivacity began to reassume its empire.

Surrounded by all her friends, except Ashford, in her attentions to them, he was almost forgotten.

Fitzraymond seemed to assume a new character. His manners were lively and disengaged—animation glowed on his handsome countenance, and he was the general enlivener. He was ready for every thing that he was called upon—for talking, singing, or dancing—he seemed to shine in either. The latter was not the favorite amusement of the evening, as the weather still continued warm.

Mrs. Claresby had received a card. Frederica knew her strong attachment to fine parties, and fine people, and had therefore given her several invitations during the winter, as she derived her

happiness chiefly from adding to that of others.

Her admiration of every thing she saw, was profuse, and her compliments to Frederica fulsome.

Mrs. Harcourt was staying with her mother, and Mrs. Claresby requested permission to bring her daughter.

Frederica immediately inclosed a card with an apology for not sending one before, which she would have done, had she known of her being in town.

Fitzraymond seemed to be the sole object of her attention during the evening; she followed him from room to room, and eyed him with a piercing scrutiny that would have annoyed any one else.

He, with the most nonchalante air, at length approached her, and enquired kindly after his old friend Harcourt.

Her eyes were lit up with animation, and after answering his question, she said, "Major Fitzraymond, there seems of late to have been a strange misunderstanding between you and me—who has been to blame I will not now pretend to say; but, by way of proving that you do not think it was yourself, call to-morrow upon me at my mother's."

He, in a gay, careless tone, replied, his conduct did not shrink from investigation; but as soon as he could tear himself from that scene where the divine Miss Koningsberg presided as queen of the rebels, he should only allow him-

self time to change his dress, and then throw himself into the chaise which was to convey him to the barracks.

" It is very well, sir," she replied, assuming an haughty air ; " but recollect one thing, which is, that Miss Koningsberg did not seem to deserve, in your estimation, the appellation of divine, when she was the humble dependant upon our bounty."

Major Fitzraymond's blood rose to his face—a variety of expression seemed to glow in every feature ; but checking a sentiment which seemed bursting from his lips, he coolly bowed, and with a glance that conveyed more meaning than the most studied piece of rhetoric could have done, quitted the apartment.

Fitzraymond remained in Piccadilly

till the rooms were nearly empty, and then, approaching Captain Hildebrand, in the most respectful terms, thanked him for the reception he had ever received from him. "We shall most likely," added he, "be but a very short time longer in Europe. If I again visit London, previous to our embarkation, I shall feel it a duty, and consider it a satisfaction, to pay my respects again to you; but if not," said he, taking the offered hand of Captain Hildebrand, "believe me, I go impressed with the most lively gratitude for your kindness towards me, and the highest esteem possible for your sentiments."

The veteran seemed unwilling to release the hand he held; but at length, pressing it with friendly affection, he

exclaimed, " Go, and may glory cheer your path, and happiness your hours! A soldier's life is not unmixed with thorns; but the courage that burns in your bosom will consume all that obtrude themselves upon you. And if the certainty of an old man's friendship can give you pleasure, you may rely on mine. These are not superficial words of course; but prove me, and you shall find me staunch."

The adieu Fitzraymond interchanged with Frederica was less copious, yet it seemed delivered with a degree of interest on each side.

The crowd slowly dispersed, and Frederica recalled to her mind, the events of several passed weeks. Regret mingled itself with her anticipations; Ash-

ford and Fitzraymond would no more enliven their parties. She gave a sigh to each, and soon sunk into the calm oblivion of repose.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Cruel disease, thus to invade
The shrine for love and graces made,
Can she to sickness be a prey,
Whose charms made all the world look gay;
All but myself, whom luckless fate
Ordains the victim of her hate?
I, wretched I, must hourly mourn
The rigour of relentless scorn;
Yet Celia's illness wounds me more
Than her severe disdain before:
And cruel! though she slights my pain—
Deaf as the winds, when I complain,
Yet, urged by gen'rous passion still,
Whate'er she suffers I must feel—
What tho' I cannot hope to share
The tender joys of life with her,
This privilege she can't refuse—
To be partaker in her woes.
But must I then unpitied burn,
And never hope a kind return?

Obdurate in your first intent,
Can nothing teach you to relent?
Oh, could the ills which you sustain,
Make you compassionate my pain!
But yours are of a different kind—
Affect the person, not the mind;
Yours only reach the outward part,
Mine a dagger in my heart.

ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE, ESQ.

LADY ANNE NORVAL and Mrs. Temple now claimed the visits they had been the preceding summer deprived of, and Captain Hildebrand looked forward with satisfaction to the time for their quitting London. He thought his beloved Frederica less lively; the bloom was not so brilliant on her cheeks, and the lustre of her eyes were frequently obscured. She frequently complained of the headache, and joined with her grandfather

in wishing to enjoy calmer scenes, which, she said, would quickly restore her. "Do not be uneasy, dear sir, respecting my health," she would say; "depend upon it, the invigorating air of Suffolk, and the calm happiness I shall experience at Norval Castle, will soon restore me; and you must consider what a winter of dissipation I have passed; one scene of hilarity has stepped so rapidly on the heels of another, that I have not had sufficient time to recover my interrupted rest. The first season it was allowable—the next, when the charm of novelty will be totally obliterated, I shall be more prudent, from finding less inclination to be otherwise."

The captain kissed her affectionately,

and said, his most fervent prayers were uttered for her health and happiness.

Previous to Mrs. Harcourt's leaving town, she called, unaccompanied by her mother, upon Frederica.

She was in one of her most agreeable humours, and chatted away, a considerable time, on various subjects, in the most entertaining manner possible.

In the course of conversation, Colonel Ashford and Major Fitzraymond were very naturally introduced.

"The colonel," said Mrs. Harcourt, "is every where set down for you, Miss Koningsberg. When we were honored with your society, he was always very lavish in your praise. You were then grave, and gravity in women, I

have heard him say, was intolerable ;— no wonder now, when you enliven every society with your gaiety, that he finds you irresistible."

Frederica smiled, and observed, laughingly, that every man who paid her more attention than the generality, were always supposed by the world, to be the favored swain. " But," added she, " I believe the men my grandfather invites here, think they cannot make a more acceptable return for the civilities they receive, than by owerwhelming me with attention."

" Fitzraymond is a most insufferable puppy," said Mrs. Harcourt.

" I cannot agree with you," returned Frederica, blushing deeply ; " he is a great

favorite here, and was continually with us while he was in town."

"I beg your pardon, then, for intruding opinions so entirely dissimilar to your own; you of course know that he now really is going to be married, and that shortly."

"Indeed I did not; it is perfect news to me. But do you think it is actually so?"

"I have not a doubt of it," replied Mrs. Harcourt; "we had it from one of his brother officers who knows the lady, who he terms a paragon of beauty, sense, fortune, and accomplishments."

After a little more uninteresting conversation, Mrs. Harcourt took her leave, and Frederica, with an aching head, and disinclined heart, went to dress for the

last opera she intended being present at previous to her journey.

Lady Charlotte Kilvain and Frederica took an affectionate leave of each other for the summer.

Before her ladyship quitted Piccadilly, she said, " I hardly know if I am doing a right thing, Frederica, considering our friendship (for I know it has obtained for me some degree of influence over you, and what I am going to say may pain you), but poor Charles Ashford is an altered being ; his health and spirits have fallen a sacrifice to his love. I see you surrounded and addressed by some of the most charming fellows in England, but your heart still seems to be your own. Were it otherwise, I would not urge poor Charles's suit, from whom

I have this morning had a letter. He does not complain, but the sombre cast of his expressions pain more. Do not answer me on the subject, but only hear what I have to say.—I think, if you mean to marry, with Ashford you could not be unhappy; it would enchant my father, gratify me, and not be unpleasing to your grandfather. Do not reply; but pray, in retirement, reflect upon his ardent affection;—and now adieu."

Kissing Frederica with all the warmth of friendship, she hastened from her, and jumped into her little curricle, that was at the door, with the airy ease of a Diana.

Frederica could not restrain those tears which, for so long a time, her feeling had not excited, on her own account.

When her friend disappeared, "How happy I should have been," thought she, "if Colonel Ashford had not signalized me; I scarcely know if I am warranted in suffering an individual to be unhappy on my account, when I could relieve him without rendering myself miserable, and be certain of obliging my best connections." But she wisely resolved to take Lady Charlotte's advice, and banish a reflection from which she did not extract any gratification, till her arrival at the castle.

The venerable building brought to her mind, in full force, the recollection of Mr. Malden, and she delighted in walking with her grandfather, to those spots with which her deceased friend

used to be so charmed. She would then, if Lady Anne was with them, often term her the guardian angel of her fortunes, since every gift they enjoyed, derived its source from her ladyship.

Frederica had long complained of violent head-aches, which even the salubrity of country air, and the regular hours she kept, had not power to eradicate;—they increased, and the family apothecary was called in as an auxiliary.

Captain Hildebrand was agonised, and was scarcely able to support existence, when the son of Esculapius declared the disorder baffled his skill, and Frederica took to her bed.

The best advice was sent for from town, who gave it as opinion that her

recovery was certain, though it would be slow, as the want of proper rest during the winter had disorganised her system.

Lady Charlotte Kilvain was made acquainted with her friend's state, and requested by Lady Anne, as soon as Frederica was able to bear society, to prevail upon her father to bring her to the castle, as she was sure her presence would then be of real service.

Every individual of the family were thrown into the greatest possible confusion, by the illness of their favorite.

Lady Anne would not quit her apartment for an instant, till every fear respecting her danger was removed.

Captain Hildebrand received daily letters from Colonel Ashford, which

seemed dictated by phrensy. He declared, if death was to deprive the world of its brightest ornament, he would no longer continue to exist—life would be effectually robbed of its only charm; and though the resolution which had dictated her refusal, seemed to preclude every idea of hope, still while there was even a possibility of his being less wretched, he could drag on the toilsome load; but if every shadow was done away, every idea of mundane comfort must vanish with it.

"This man really loves," said the veteran to Lady Anne, after perusing one of his epistles. "What a pity it is that my darling cannot regard him with an eye of compassion! Her heart is not obdurate. When she is able to bear it,

she shall see these letters; I own it would please me if they would have an effect to produce a change in Ashford's favor. He really is a good fellow; there is only one other being whom I think deserving of the rich jewel of Frederica's love; but he, by this time, I suppose is another's."

CHAP. XXXIV.

Say, Myra, why is gentle love
A stranger to that mind,
Which pity and esteem can move,
Which can be just and kind?

Is it because you fear to share
The ills that love molest—
The jealous doubt, the tender care
That rack the am'rous breast?

Alas! by some degree of woe,
We ev'ry bliss must gain;
The heart can ne'er a transport know,
That never feels a pain.

LYTTLETON.

THE hearts of Frederica's friends were soon relieved, by her being sufficiently recovered to join their circle, though an

interesting languor still pervaded her countenance, the charms of which it rather added to than diminished.

Lady Anne thought this the best time for requesting the Earl of Kilvain and his daughter's company, as the latter had written word they would hold themselves in readinesss for a summons. It was accordingly sent, and immediately complied with; and Frederica had the happiness of embracing the chosen companion of her heart.

A few days after Lady Charlotte's arrival at the castle, Frederica, leaning upon her arm, slowly walked to a beautiful natural recess in the grounds, which was almost obscured from common observation, by the eglantine and woodbine.

Lady Anne had had a mossy seat placed there, and it was a charming retreat, as the sun seldom had power to pierce its pleasing shade.

Here the young friends seated themselves.

"Have you had time, or inclination, my dear girl," commenced Lady Charlotte, "to reflect upon the last words I uttered to you in Piccadilly?"

"Of the former, I have had plenty," replied Frederica, "and have been frequently necessitated to consider what you urged in every point of view. My grandfather is a more earnest advocate for Colonel Ashford than even you; the letters he so constantly wrote during my illness, has interested him so much, that he, dear good man, accuses me of

unkindness and ingratitude, in not listening to the addresses of your cousin."

"He has been almost frantic," said Lady Charlotte. "My father, from the wretched account Major Fitzraymond wrote him of poor Charles, went immediately to Horsham, and took me with him. I was very much affected by my visit; he cannot speak of any other person but you, and still there is so much mildness and respect mixed with his adoration, that I could not forbear telling him I was certain, if you were then to see him, you would pity (and may be effectually) his passion. Even the possibility of such an event inspired him with rapture—his face glowed with the enthusiastic emanation of delight. For five minutes, he seemed the Charles

Ashford I last year remember; but memory soon tore from transport, the habiliments of hope, and dejection again resumed her undivided sway. In a very few days, the regiment quits Horsham to embark for the West Indies."

"I am glad of it," replied Frederica; "Colonel Ashford told me himself, that he did not doubt but that fresh scenes would dispel my image."

"That *I doubt*," returned her friend; "yet I ought not to say so, for my firm opinion is, that 'fresh scenes will dispel your image' and every other, taking an agitated mind with him into so intemperate a climate—his making a travelling companion of your death-warrant. You are callous, Frederica. Had Fitzraymond felt a similar passion, I suppose

he would have experienced a similar fate. It is well for him," added she, in a gayer tone, "that he fixed his affections on a less obdurate fair one; for it is confidently asserted that he is to be married before he quits England. Poor Charles must envy his friend."

"What would you have me do?" demanded Frederica, in great agitation.

"I will tell you, my dear girl.—If, without rendering yourself unhappy, you could bestow upon Ashford the height of human felicity, I would have you do it. The goodness and philanthropy of your nature makes me almost expect it of you; but if there is a lurking repugnance at your heart, I would prefer Charles's unhappiness to yours; its duration, one way or the other, would,

I am convinced, be less permanent. To exist with his present feelings, I am certain must be impossible; if the climate, in his state of mind, has not the effect I dread, the variety will obliterate those impressions which his own sense will render him anxious to efface."

"Do with me what you please," said Frederica; "I am yours—I am Ashford's, if he will take a heart that does not contain one sentiment beyond friendship for him. I have extracted all the comfort this world has yielded me, from bestowing happiness on others, and to be convinced that there is one individual in it who thinks with regret, upon the moment that introduced him to my acquaintance, makes me very wretched. Inform your father—inform my only

relative, that I am acquiescent to their wishes, and that my delight, as ever, will proceed from gratifying those whom I love more than I do myself."

"Dear girl," said Lady Charlotte, how you compel every one to admire you! I may have been too strenuous an advocate for Charles. We are all different from you, Frederica, and are apt to be selfish. I feel more for Ashford, because my feelings, in a great measure, resemble his, and I compassionated his acute sufferings from the consciousness of the poignancy of some I experience. Drumlandrie of course is the source; he has obtained leave of absence, and returned to Ireland, without being in the least more explicit concerning the nature of the sentiments

he experienced for me. He was restless and dejected before he quitted us, and said, almost the last thing, to me, 'When we meet again, you will either despise me, or condescend to pardon some part of my conduct which you no doubt deem indefensible.'—What am I to think of this man? He has certainly taken the utmost pains to gain my affection, which he, I am sure, is perfectly conscious he possesses, and then leaves me in a state of the most torturing uncertainty, doubt, and uneasiness. The impression of his conduct will never be obliterated from my memory. I was smarting under the first lacerating effects of it, when we went to Horsham; —that sympathy which attract those who are unhappy from similar causes to

each other, made me resolve to exert myself for Charles. I have succeeded; but if my arguments in his favor, should eventually render you less happy, I shall be completely wretched: therefore, for my sake, let me delay acquainting your friends with your present determination for a few days, as they may undergo a revolution."

"As you please, dear Charlotte; but I shall not change; I am resolved to become the wife of Charles Ashford."

Frederica had not exaggerated, when she told her friend that most of her comforts flowed from one channel—that of giving satisfaction to those whom she loved.

Before her recently related conversation with Lady Charlotte, her mind had

wavered much in Colonel Ashford's favour.

Enervated by illness, and stopped in the career of some favorite thoughts that her mind had harboured without the consent of her judgment, her objections lost a great part of their force. Her friends the Norvals, and Captain Hildebrand, were urgent in the colonel's cause.

The idea of the poignancy of his sufferings, described by her beloved Lady Charlotte, gave the finishing stroke to her resolution, and she looked forward with a degree of complacency, which a self-approving conscience bestows, to becoming the wife of Ashford.

No tumults, either of joy or sorrow, agitated her bosom; she should perform

the last serious action her grandfather would ever have occasion to exact, and her mind must be freed from a dread she could not fail of experiencing, whenever a West India packet arrived, lest it should bring an account of Colonel Ashford's decease.

She well knew, that though his passions leaned as much to the side of virtue as a complete *man of fashion's and a soldier's* could do, yet they were violent. He had never been in the habit of restraining them, and it was not to be supposed, in this case, that he would begin, for the first time, to exert philosophy.

It is very seldom that the lover, glowing with the effervescence of an

ardour that threatens to destroy him, can sit coolly down, and moralize.

Frederica was likewise urged by diffidence of her own superior merit, to think that her qualifications were not sufficient to fix a heart. "At present," said she, "disappointment makes him consider that which he cannot possess, a jewel of inestimable value. But why am I to expect to be more fortunate than the rest of my sex? The confidence of possession will dissolve the charm; the present enthusiasm cannot—ought not to continue. In a few months after we have lived together, the adoring, the energetic lover, will sink possibly into the careless, inattentive husband, and mentally accuse me for yielding

to the solicitation of friends, without being aided by any powerful dictates of my own mind."

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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